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# THE TIMES

Fashion: Romance  
takes over  
from punk, page 11

## Rebel Spanish troops hold 350 MPs hostage in Parliament

Most of the entire lower house of the Spanish Parliament, including Prime Minister-designate, were held hostage last night by about 200 civil guards led by an army colonel. The group had earlier stormed the chamber firing automatic weapons, and ordering everybody to lie down. It appeared that the right-wing Captain-General of the Valencia region had masterminded the coup attempt.

## Coup attempt during vote on leader

By Richard Wigg

Madrid, Feb 23

About 350 Spanish politicians, including the entire lower house (the Cortes) (Parliament) were held hostage tonight by an estimated 200 civil guards led by an army colonel.

Among the hostages is Mr. Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister-designate.

The guards stormed Parliament last night as the Cortes was voting on Mr. Calvo Sotelo's appointment.

To the accompaniment of bursts of sub-machinegun fire, the guards ordered everyone to the floor.

General Manuel Gutiérrez el Maestro, as Deputy Prime Minister, tried to negotiate with the rebels, telling them to obey authority, according to a Calvo side. But the rebels were beaten and ordered to floor with the others.

he raid was briefly broadcast by a short-circuited television screen which had been covering the floor. Before being forced to floor, he reported that guns pointed at Señor Landelino illa, the Speaker.

is broadcast was cut and his line, like other networks, in playing classical music.

According to a report by the Press, quoting a high-ranking source, the rebels were apparently in the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero.

is remembered here as a leader of the so-called "Generation of '36", an abortive attempt to seize power from the government which overthrew the monarchy in 1931.

He was given a light sentence by army authorities.

An eyewitness in the Cortes said that the rebels were armed with all communications cut, and that the rebels' strategy was broadcast over a radio in Castellón, normally receivable in Madrid.

Spaniards wondered whether their five-year democracy was now threatened by a coup d'état.

3 Juan Carlos, the young king, ordered the outgoing Government to remain in session at the Palace "to ensure the continuity of the country's institutions and to ensure the continuity of the country's institutions and to ensure the continuity of the country's institutions."

As soon as news of the raid became known, maximum security was placed around the Madrid Palace of Congresses on the other side of the city, where the Cortes was meeting.

Two tanks and three jeeps blocked access to the building, which was evacuated by the military. It was the first time since the 1931 revolution that the army had taken action after the king's abdication.

An emergency meeting of military leaders was to start shortly, army sources said.

Agency sources said: "The king is expected to be announced today. The wedding is likely to take place in Westminster Abbey in July."

Lady Diana, aged 19, youngest daughter of Lord Spencer and Mrs. Frances Shand Kydd, worked as an assistant in a kindergarten in Pinckney, London.

The Prince of Wales, who is aged 32, once said that he thought "about thirty" was the right age for marriage, and the announcement will bring to an end speculation about the romance that has in recent months put the couple in the centre of press attention.



Colonel Tejero: Previous plot to seize power.

Suarez Government standing in for their Ministers who were trapped in the Cortes.

This emergency body of politicians told the country tonight that the "most complete, calm" reigned in the country and gave an assurance that the "momentary interruption of parliamentary life" was expected to be short-lived.

All civilian and military authorities, the statement said, acting under the orders of King Juan Carlos, would guarantee that an act of violence did not disrupt the democratic system of government, freely chosen by the Spanish people, and expressed in the constitution, and which civilian and military authorities had sworn to uphold.

General Bosch, who is Captain-General of the Valencia region, had apparently of his own initiative declared a state of emergency in the region and taken over the local administration.

"Stay tranquil, Jordi," King Juan Carlos said, according to Señor Jordi Pujol, president of the Catalonia autonomous regional government, when the King was reassured of the situation in the Barcelona region.

It was a socialist woman MP, several months pregnant, who had been allowed out of the chamber who got the news to the King by telephone.

All traffic was prevented from approaching the parliament building in central Madrid but it was not known on whose authority this action was taken.

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Lady Diana Spencer walking in London yesterday.

## Engagement of Prince to be announced today

By a Staff Reporter

The engagement of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer is expected to be announced today. The wedding is likely to take place in Westminster Abbey in July.

Lady Diana, aged 19, youngest daughter of Lord Spencer and Mrs. Frances Shand Kydd, worked as an assistant in a kindergarten in Pinckney, London.

The Prince of Wales, who is aged 32, once said that he thought "about thirty" was the right age for marriage, and the announcement will bring to an end speculation about the romance that has in recent months put the couple in the centre of press attention.

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## Water men in North stage first walk-out

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

An indefinite strike by water and sewerage workers in parts of Lancashire started at midnight as the momentum for an official action gathered pace in several areas of England and Wales.

In spite of attempts by union officials to calm the situation, rank-and-file members displayed their hostility to the National Water Council's 10 per cent offer by starting action before trade union leaders met tomorrow. They are expected to give the employers notice of strike action.

About two hundred workers with the Pennine Water Authority in Oldham and Ashton are involved in the action, which is unlikely to have any dramatic effect immediately but could become serious if the strike is prolonged.

Water and sewerage workers in the North-east, who imposed a work to rule last week, have threatened to go on strike from midnight tomorrow if their offer is not substantially increased. Workers in York are already taking disruptive action and they are likely to be joined later in the week by members of the National Union of Public Employees in Wales.

Workers in the west Wales and UK regions are being balloted on whether to go on strike, and the results should be known later today. Mr Steven King, NUPE regional secretary for Wales, said last night: "It would be surprising if there were not unofficial action in several areas in Wales before the end of the week."

The decision of the Lancashire workers was taken at a meeting in Oldham. Mr Stephen Braithwaite, district officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union, said after the meeting: "They said they were not prepared to wait any longer. The union claim was submitted last October and it has still not been settled."

"The men have become tired of waiting and they decided to take unofficial action. There will be pickets out at local depots and I will not be surprised if the action spreads," Mr Braithwaite said.

Union delegates meeting in Newcastle urged their leaders to call a national strike. Mr Raymond Gray, chairman of the local NUPE water committee, said attitudes had hardened and they were determined to win a decent increase.

At a national level, union negotiators were hoping that the employers would indicate their willingness to improve the offer before tomorrow's meeting.

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HOME NEWS

# Miners demand sale 'of every ounce' as rescue talks begin

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Negotiations on the rescue package for the coal industry opened yesterday with a demand by the National Union of Mineworkers that the Government should find a market for "every ounce of coal we produce".

That was the view put to the National Coal Board by Mr Joseph Gormley, the union's president, on the eve of senior level talks between the TUC and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over the shape of his forthcoming Budget.

After shelving their strike threat, miners' leaders are looking to the Cabinet for measures that would minimize coal imports and restore operating subsidies at a cost of hundreds of millions of pounds. Negotiations with David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, on the scale of government finance are to be resumed tomorrow.

Mr Gormley said yesterday that the miners and the board had agreed on the principal items in a "shopping list" and

sought ministerial backing for those measures. "The commitment we must have is that the country will sell every ounce of coal we produce," he added.

Tomorrow's talks are expected to concentrate on agreement about principles rather than decisions on the amount of money involved in the reduction of coal imports and the restoration of subsidies, but the issue of pumping public money into the nationalized industries will be raised on a wider scale with the Government today.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is to meet the TUC economic committee, and listen to proposals for a publicly funded £5,200m stimulus to the economy designed to produce a 1.5 per cent growth next year.

Ministers will give the TUC a policy, but a non-committal hearing in the confident expectation that their proposals will not be implemented by the Thatcher administration, the unions and the Labour Party yesterday agreed on further civil responses in the cities on the lines of the Glasgow and Liverpool demonstrations.



Soldiers of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in Scorpion and Scimitar light tanks during a Salisbury Plain exercise against an enemy attacking with nuclear and chemical weapons.

## Civil Service unions flatly reject 7% pay offer

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

Industrial action by Britain's 530,000 civil service workers, which could have a damaging impact on government, became more likely last night after leaders of the nine Civil Service unions rejected an improved pay offer of rises of 7 per cent.

The new offer, a 1 per cent improvement, was made by Lord Soames, Lord President and minister responsible for the Civil Service. It was flatly rejected by union negotiators, who predicted that the first co-ordinated action throughout the service was almost certain to go ahead.

Union leaders who are seeking a 15 per cent increase, went into the meeting in the knowledge that members of the main unions have voted, or are in the process of voting, in favour of industrial action.

In an attempt at conciliation, Lord Soames offered the unions talks on establishing an ordered system of pay bargaining for the Civil Service. The unions agreed to further discussions with government officials on the offer in the next few days.

Some of the less militant unions would be reluctant to embark on a campaign of industrial action if they thought a new system of bargaining based on "fair comparisons" could be agreed with the Government.

Lord Soames was uncompromising in his statement to the unions and said that the offer would be accommodated within the 5 per cent cash limit for pay increases set by the Government by job cuts and reduction in administrative costs. It had to be regarded as the Government's final offer.

Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said after

the talks that the offer was not acceptable. "I do not believe there is a way out of last night's meetings covering about half the union's membership had voted by a three-to-one majority in favour of strikes."

If Thursday's meeting gives approval for the campaign the one-day strike will be followed by other action, including selective strikes against key government computer centres in an attempt to disrupt the Government's ability to collect revenue.

Among the centres where action is likely are the PAYE computers at Shipley, near Bradford, and Cumberland, near Glasgow, and the customs computer at Southampton.

The unions have collectively pledged that they will give workers who strike or are suspended 85 per cent of their gross pay.

Members of the CPSA are voting at branch meetings on whether to take action, and by last night meetings covering about half the union's membership had voted by a three-to-one majority in favour of strikes.

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## Dr Owen suggests Intelligence vetting

By Stewart Tiedler

A special committee of Privy Counsellors to make Britain's intelligence services more publicly accountable was suggested last night by David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary.

Interviewed during BBC television's *Panorama* programme on Britain's intelligence community, Dr Owen said it was reasonable to have a small committee to question the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister to make sure they were keeping a total democratic check.

Mr Jonathan Aiken, MP for Thanet, said that during the Suez crisis in 1956 plans had been made to kill President Nasser.

Mr Aiken, who at that time was working for Mr Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Secretary,

said that Mr Lloyd did not learn of the assassination plans until they were well advanced.

During the programme, which has been a centre of controversy over allegations of censorship within the BBC, a number of former intelligence officers were interviewed.

The programme also interviewed Mr Frank Sney, a former CIA officer, who claimed that British intelligence had used journalists as field operatives. He said his colleagues often assumed, for example, that Reuters staff were tied in with British intelligence.

That was denied by Mr Gerald Long, then managing director of Reuters, who told *Panorama* that anyone suspected of contact, let alone working for an intelligence group would be called to account.

## 'Note the actions, not the words' is Tory message

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Prime Minister's approval was conveyed in Whitehall yesterday for the new message that more attention should be paid to the Government's pragmatic actions than to some of its defiant rhetoric. The point had been put over strongly in a Sunday television interview by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade.

Yesterday he was given the rating of a sterling performance. Such phrases as "the lady's not for turning" and "never, never, never" used by the Prime Minister are in future to be taken as inspirational for the long-term strategy and its objectives, not setting the tone for the immediate tactics.

That emerged after a meeting of Cabinet ministers put the finishing touches yesterday morning to the Government's plans for massive public assistance to the British Steel Corporation.

Mrs Thatcher wants it believed that she and all her ministers stand by the strategy of reducing inflation and reviving British industry. But they are more concerned about adjusting to the realities in this depression and thus adjusting their tactics, than many observers had noticed.

The explanation, of course, would have seemed more credible had the Government, at the time, given a warning that the rhetoric was not to be taken at face value. Instead, the wide coverage, particularly in the popular press, given to Mrs Thatcher's rhetoric was relished, indeed solicited.

## Dr Runcie sets warm and enthusiastic tone for Anglican welcome to the Pope

By Clifford Longley  
Religion Affairs

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday set the tone of the Church of England's welcome to the Pope next year. It was to be warm and enthusiastic, "but without compromising Anglican principles," he indicated.

"In welcoming Pope John Paul II to our country and to Canterbury Cathedral we do so as Anglicans on our own terms, and they are not those of the First Vatican Council. And the Pope would be the last person to want us to sacrifice our own theological integrity," Dr Runcie told the General Synod of the Church of England.

He was speaking in a debate, which was later adjourned on motion acknowledging the Pope's visit and calling for joint Anglican-Roman Catholic prayers and preparations for it.

The Synod embarked on the subject a little gingerly, mindful of strong feelings in the Church and elsewhere, with several speakers referring to

the difficulties the Church of England has concerning the Papacy.

The Archbishop's line was followed by many members, and there was general agreement that the visit was an occasion for warmth rather than for euphoria. While the great improvement in relations between the two churches was repeatedly referred to, so were those aspects of Roman Catholic theory and practice that Anglicans find objectionable.

There was a general wish that the visit should somehow directly serve the cause of church unity, although Dr Runcie warned the Synod that there was a danger of "triumphalism" on the Roman Catholic side, and "no popery" on the other.

Mr Runcie hopes that the visit will in fact strengthen the witness of all the churches in our country, not just the Roman Catholic Church. This will call for ecumenical sensitivity on the part of the Pope and the Anglican Catholics of this country.

"It will also call for an openness on the part of the Church of England and other Christians to the positive value of the Pope's ministry," Dr Runcie said.

Earlier he disclosed that there was no likelihood of the Pope being invited to say Mass in Canterbury Cathedral. *The Times* Diary and its correspondence columns not withstanding.

The Synod began its consideration of the proposed covenant with the Free Churches, by deciding on the special majority in the synod that the scheme will eventually require when the final debate takes place in 1983.

Opponents of the covenant's proposals were generally in favour of a majority of 75 per cent being set as the test, while supporters were behind the Synod's standing committee's proposal of a two-thirds majority. This committee's view was eventually adopted by 241 votes to 200.

## In brief

### Lady Falkender 'was informant'

Lady Falkender, formerly Sir Harold Wilson's political secretary, was responsible for disclosing that Sir Geoffrey Harrison was recalled from his post as ambassador in Moscow in 1968, after having an affair with a Russian chambermaid, Sir Geoffrey said yesterday.

The disclosure was made to a journalist about four years ago, but was not published until last weekend in *The Sunday Times*. Sir Geoffrey said that he regarded the information as classified and that it should not have been divulged to a journalist.

### Gun murder charge

Gary England, aged 17, of Chingford Avenue, Chingford, London, appeared at Waltham Forest magistrates' court yesterday charged with the shotgun murder of Mr Mark Butters at a party in Walthamstow, east London, on Saturday night. Mr England was remanded in custody until March 2.

### Widow gets £57,450

Mrs Patricia Matthews, a widow, aged 39, of Scotforth, Lancashire, and her three daughters were awarded agreed damages of £57,450 yesterday against the British Railways Board after the death of her husband, who contracted asbestosis while employed by the board.

### Arrest at No 10

A man was arrested yesterday when he tried to rush into 10 Downing Street to complain about housing. John Scoby, aged 55, of Haldane Street, Whiteinch, Glasgow, was bound over at Bow Street Magistrates' Court for causing a breach of the peace.

### Wildlife park theft

A £20,000 collection of silver, bronze and ivory animal figures has been stolen from Mr John Aspinall's wildlife park at Port Lympne, Kent. The pieces were in display cases in the park's mansion.

### RAF pilot feared dead

An RAF pilot was last night missing and feared dead after his Hunter jet fighter on a routine training mission plunged into the North Sea 20 miles north-east of its base at RAF Lossiemouth.

### Manx law change

Suspended sentences and community service orders will be introduced into the Isle of Man's criminal courts if a new Criminal Justice Bill, going before the House of Keys today, is passed.

### House arson inquiry

Forensic scientists yesterday sifted through the wreckage of a house in Little Milton, Oxfordshire, which police think may have been deliberately set on fire.

### Dustmen killed

Mr Charles Roberts, aged 49, a dustman, of Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire, died yesterday when he was knocked under the wheels of his refuse vehicle and crushed.

## Failures in paying child benefit criticized

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

The failures of the Department of Health and Social Security in paying child benefit to needy families is strongly criticized today in the annual report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman).

Of 10 cases investigated last year the Ombudsman found black spots in which industrial disputes and computer and communication difficulties caused delay in families receiving child benefits, in some cases for many months.

The Ombudsman emphasizes that he would need a wider sample before attempting to judge the overall performance of the department.

But he continues: "What is clear from the handful of cases that have been brought to me is that people to whom a few pounds in benefit are equivalent to Mr Micawber's immortal exclamation 'What a hard ship' when the administrative system through which they should receive this benefit fails."

## Accident risk to driving examiners

By Peter Waymark  
Motoring Correspondent

During one driving test in nine which the candidate fails, the examiner has to intervene to prevent an accident, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, said yesterday.

He told driving instructors at a conference in London that in the interests of road safety they should try to discourage pupils from taking the test before they were ready. "The most important message for both of us to get across is that learners who cannot drive safely and considerably will, without doubt, fail their tests."

Last year 1,800,000 learner drivers took the test and the failure rate was 53 per cent. On average, an examiner is faced with having to take action to stop an accident every other day.

Mr Peter Russell, general secretary of the Motor Schools Association, said: "Some instructors have been remiss in allowing pupils to take tests too soon, but we feel this happens more with learners who have not been through a driving school. One difficulty is that the long waiting lists for tests make some pupils desperate to enrol as soon as they feel they may have a chance."

Mr Clarke also appealed to instructors to discourage pupils from making double or multiple bookings. That was considered to be other candidates, as well as increasing costs and causing additional delay.

The conference welcomed a suggestion from Mr Clarke for a higher standard of entry for driving instructors and that standards of entry should be raised.

He argued that higher standards would lessen the need for his department to carry out periodic checks on driving instructors. Those were made twice a year, an expensive operation requiring a large staff.

Mr Russell said: "We would gladly pay more to get better supervision and stricter control on entry. It is too easy to become a driving instructor."

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## Motorway closed after 50 vehicles collide

The M6 in Staffordshire and the West Midlands was closed for three hours yesterday after 50 vehicles were involved in a series of accidents. A three-mile trail of wreckage blocked both carriageways near Walsall.

Only one person was injured. Lorries, tankers, and coaches were involved.

In North Yorkshire Stephen Wood, aged 15, of Pool in Wharfedale, and Mr Tommy Pickard, aged 51, were rescued after being stranded in a blizzard for 12 hours on the fells near Ingleborough.

The boys' dog had helped to keep them warm and awake and its barking was heard by rescuers.

Rescuers were in action in Snowdonia after a woman climber collapsed with exhaustion.

Miss Judy Kimis, aged 20, of East House Crescent, Farnham, Surrey, had collapsed on the east face of the 3,000ft Tryfan on Sunday afternoon.

Thirty rescuers brought her down to Ogwen Valley early yesterday, but she did not require hospital treatment.

## Rosie Swale is convicted on poisoning charge

From Our Correspondent  
Winchester

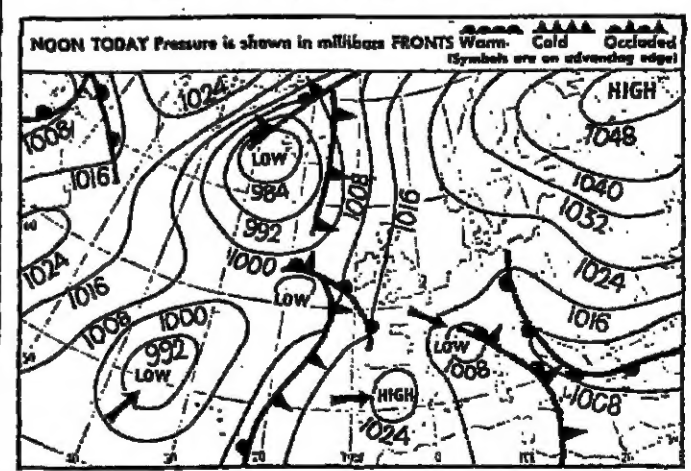
Rosie Swale, the round-the-world sailor, was found guilty at Winchester Crown Court yesterday of poisoning Mr Keith Vincent, a Southampton dockworker, and of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Her friend, Tracey Stamp, who before a sex-change operation was a merchant seaman, was found guilty of perjury and of attempting to pervert the course of justice. The jury was discharged from giving a verdict on a charge against her of perjury.

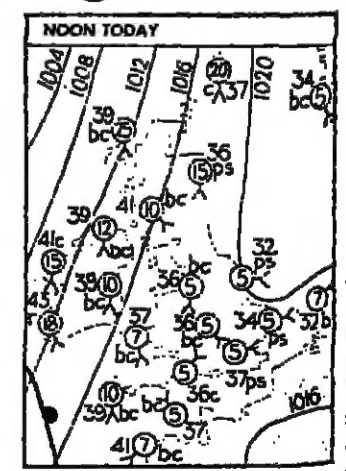
Miss Swale was given a nine-month prison sentence on the poisoning charge, suspended for one year. The two women were conditionally discharged for 12 months on the charges of perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Miss Swale and Miss Stamp, both of Penford, Dyfed, South Wales, had denied all the charges. They had been accused of administering toxic laburnum seeds to Mr Vincent.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Sum rises:	Sun sets:
	6.57 am	5.32 pm
	9.23 am	11.30 pm
Last quarter: February 27.		
Lighting up: 6.02 pm to 6.25 am.		
High water: London Bridge, 4.55 am, 6.8m; 5.18 pm, 6.8m; Aronmouth, 10.14 am, 12.2m; 10.29 pm, 11.8m; Dover, 1.59 am, 6.4m; 2.15 pm, 6.0m; Hull, 9.57 am, 6.8m; 9.36 pm, 7.0m; Liverpool, 1.12 am, 8.4m; 2.22 pm, 8.4m.		
Low water: London Bridge, 1.12 am, 3.28m; 1.12 pm, 3.28m.		
A weak trough near S areas will continue moving S as a weak ridge builds across Britain.		
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:		
London, SE, central S England, Channel Islands: Outbreaks of sleet or snow at first with mist or fog patches, slowly becoming drier and brighter with E, light; max temp 4°C (39°F).		
East Anglia, E England: Fog patches slowly clearing with sunny intervals developing. Light snow showers near coasts; wind E, light; max temp 3°C or 4°C (37° to 39°F).		
Midlands, SW, NW, central N England, Wales: Rather cloudy, misty start, perhaps a little sleet or snow in places, slowly becoming brighter and drier; wind NE, light, later SE, moderate at times; max temp 4°C or 5°C (39° to 41°F).		
Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow central Highlands, Argyll: Mostly dry with sun after clearing of any overnight mist or fog; wind SE, light to moderate, increasing to fresh at times later; max temp 4°C to 6°C (39° to 43°F).		
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Some fog patches at first, scattered snow showers and sunny intervals; wind SE, light, moderate in places later; max temp 2°C to 4°C (36° to 39°F).		
Northern Ireland: Mostly dry with sunny intervals after clearing of any overnight mist or fog; perhaps rain or sleet later; wind S to SE, moderate, increasing to fresh; max temp 4°C to 6°C (39° to 43°F).		
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mostly dry but cold; wind SE, light, becoming S; E with overnight frost and fog. Sea passages: S North Sea, f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.		



Strait of Dover, English Channel	(E): Wind mainly NE, light or moderate; sea smooth or slight chop.
St George's Channel, Irish Sea	Wind variable, light, becoming S, increasing to fresh; sea smooth, becoming moderate.
Yesterday	Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 4°C (39°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 67%. Rain, 2.6 mm. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.54 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,015.4 mbars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.	
Overseas selling prices	
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## HOME NEWS

### Leaders of Nalگو will oppose move for affiliation to Labour

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Leaders of the National and Local Government Officers' Association will argue this summer for rejection of a proposal that the union, the country's fourth biggest, should affiliate to the Labour Party.

Affiliation by Nalگو, the biggest union within the TUC which is not joined to the Labour Party, would mean a significant boost to the party's flag finances and also strengthen the party's moderate wing.

The union's executive, however, will recommend to the annual conference that there is no useful purpose in a Labour Party affiliation at present and that the union should not establish a separate political fund.

The 750,000 members are old in the executive report at the present state of the Labour Party, "gives great cause for concern" and that an increasing amount of the time and energies of both the constituencies and the unions seem to be taken up in bitter fights between right and left.

The remark comes in an evenly divided account of the use for and against affiliation. The report adds that the recent image of the Labour Party is one of an organization tearing itself apart.

It also says: "It may well be necessary for the Labour Party to attempt to resolve its internal differences, but while the recess continues, members of unions such as Nalگو are unlikely to see much immediate advantage in affiliation."

The conference will see the first full debate in the union

on the merits of affiliation to the party. The executive decision not to conduct a ballot was passed by only 23 votes to 20 and there may be lively discussion.

The reference to the troubles of the party was inserted after production of the original report for the influential "Nalگو in the Eighties Committee".

As first disclosed in The Times, the original report, largely duplicated in the present one, said that affiliation would ease access to the Government when Labour was in power and that its policy on public services was closer to Labour than that of the Conservatives. At the same time, however, it gave a warning that affiliation moves might well divide the union.

Instead of setting up a political fund, which the report said might be seen by some as a backstairs move towards affiliation, the Nalگو executive has suggested a change in the rules that would allow the union to spend money on political, but non-party, purposes.

That would make clear, for example, that backing for the devolution campaign in Wales or for the Anti-Nazi League was not in any way a breach of the union's constitution. In fact, advice so far to the union has been that such activity is not in any case unconstitutional, but some criticism has been voiced within the union.

The executive report says that the response from branches, although limited was overwhelmingly against affiliation and the creation of a political fund, and it seems clear that the union is not yet ready for such a step.

### Mackerel fishing restrictions outlined

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

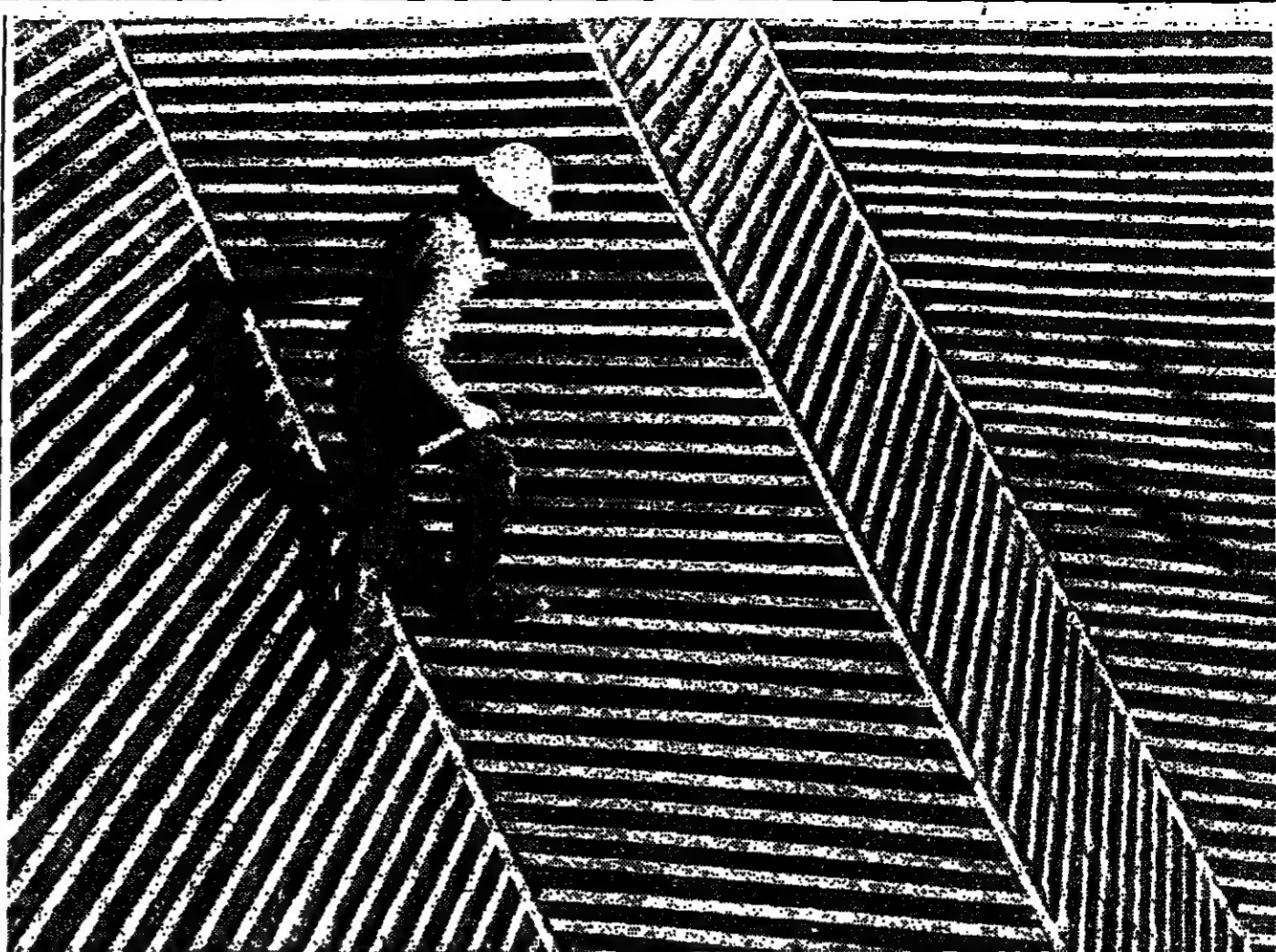
Ministers yesterday reimposed strict curbs on mackerel fishing off south-west England. The move came after Scottish trawlers had spent the winter catching fish off Cornwall for sale to processing vessels from such countries as Egypt, Bulgaria and East Germany.

Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced in a written Commons reply that the Government was reviving its ban on almost all mackerel catches from ships of all nations in an area of 4,000 square miles round much of the coastline of Devon and Cornwall.

"The prohibition is designed to reduce catching of immature mackerel", he said. Trawlers had to be kept out of the south-western fishery to "serve adequate quantities of mackerel for the vessels concerned to take later in the year".

The Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation said that the government move was necessary but too late to safeguard immature fish.

Mrs. Daphne Lewis, secretary of the organisation, said that if the Government continued its present course of curbs for many more years the mackerel stock would be severely damaged.



A site engineer inspecting 10 miles of battening on the new roof of the Great Hall at Bedford School, damaged by fire last year.

### Prisons are falling apart, union leader says

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Pentonville Prison, in north London was falling to bits, Mr. K. E. Shirley, its administrative officer, told the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee yesterday. The structure of all local prisons had reached the same stage, he said.

Mr. Shirley is chairman of the Prison Department outstations branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants. Its members include executive grades of the prison service, but exclude governors.

The branch thinks there are better ways of controlling prison expenditure. It would like a budget for each one, and suggests millions of pounds could be saved by using civilians in certain jobs instead of prison officers.

Mr. John Hunt, Conservative MP for Bromley, Ravensbourne, said the recent prison dispute had led to the suspension of prisoners on remand in court every eight days, and he asked if the arrangements should be made permanent.

Mr. Gordon Gilbert, who is based at Hull and is secretary of the branch, said the dispute had illustrated that it was possible to cut down on unnecessary expense.

### Water rate rise is cut after minister acts

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

Increases in water charges in the North-west from April are to be reduced from 26 per cent to 16.5 per cent after government intervention.

The reduction has been made possible largely because of a relaxation of accounting rules by the Government, which has given the North West Water authority an extra £21m cash limit.

The Government stepped in when it saw that the range of water charge increases throughout England was between 14 and 28 per cent, and the Prime Minister announced two weeks ago that independent accountants were to conduct an immediate inquiry because of growing resentment at the size of the increases.

The results of the week-long exercise proved an embarrassment to Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, who had ordered an inquiry.

The accountants' reports suggested that while small reductions might be made by the nine water authorities, the main cause of the increase in charges was the change to current cost accounting, which distorted the figures because of the enormous cost of replacing ageing sewers.

Mr. George Mann, chairman of the North West Water Authority, the second largest in the country told yesterday's meeting that only the Government could have done anything about the proposed increases, but that its increase of £21m in the cash limit had surprised them. At least it appeared that the difficulties facing the North-west were being recognized.

Mr. Mann called on the Government to provide authorities with a water services grant, arguing that it was ridiculous that there was not such a grant for renewing the aged assets, such as sewers, whose replacement put too great a burden on the consumer.

### Farmers told to make better use of grassland technology

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Meat and milk yields from British grassland could double if farmers made better use of technology, the Centre for Agricultural Strategy said yesterday. A cut in the amount of land needed for grazing would release upland acres for forestry.

Professor Colin Spedding, who will succeed Professor John Bowman as director of the

centre next week, said: "This is not a guess from the top of somebody's head. It could be done. Farmers do not use the technology available, which is rather worrying."

Professor Alec Lazenby, director of the state-funded Grassland Research Institute, said that the coming cost-price squeeze would force dairy farmers to move away from their high dependence on manufactured feeds and use more grass.

"I think it is desirable. It is a much cheaper feed. If there is a real cost-price squeeze in milk production, which I believe inevitable, then I believe the move away is inevitable."

The institute has calculated that if farmers made the best use of grass, the pasture needed for the present national output of milk and meat would be reduced from seven million to three million hectares.

Professor Spedding said that past research had concentrated

too much on improving grass yields with chemical fertilizers instead of with plants such as clover that produced plant nutrients.

He and Professor Lazenby were speaking at a London press conference to announce a change in the financing of the centre, an independent research unit at Reading University. Funding worth £60,000 a year from the Nuffield Foundation is to be replaced by income from contract research.

### Government urged to amend parts of the Vagrancy Acts

Pressure to repeal parts of the Vagrancy Acts which cover begging, sleeping rough and being found on enclosed premises has come from the Howard League for Penal Reform and the National Association of Probation Officers.

Mr. Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, the league's chairman, has written to Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, asking him to support amendments to the Criminal Attempts Bill.

He says that prosecution is an inappropriate way of dealing with homelessness, and suggests that the Government could support the Vagrancy Offices (Repeal) Bill, which Mr. Albert Stallard, Labour MP for Camden, St. Pancras, North, is seeking leave to introduce under the 10-minute rule procedure.

### Division on school bus issue

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Legal opinion is divided over the question whether local authorities will have a duty to provide free transport for any child who, under the new parental choice provisions of the Education Act, 1980, opts for a school which is not the nearest to home.

The matter has been brought to light by the Roman Catholic Church, which is concerned about the proposals by several education authorities to stop providing free transport for Roman Catholic children, but the issue affects all children.

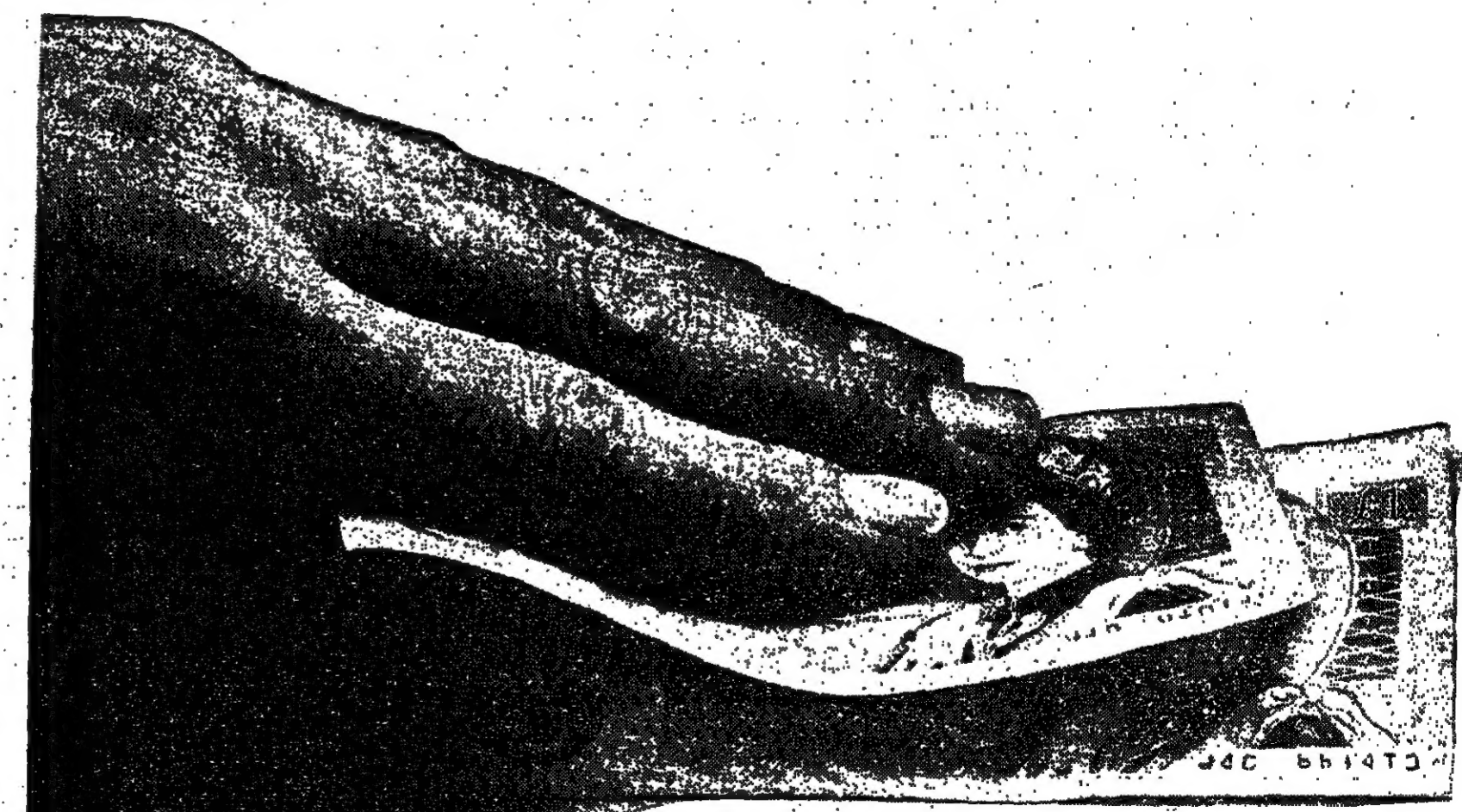
The 1944 Education Act places no clear duty on a local authority to provide free transport for children attending denominational schools, although most authorities have done so. However, there is great pressure on authorities to cut spending, and transport, particularly for Roman Catholic children, is vulnerable.

In London boroughs of Enfield and Croydon have decided not to provide free transport for pupils transferring to denominational schools from September.

According to counsel's opinion given to the Catholic Education Council, clause 6 of the 1980 Act means that authorities will have to provide free transport to children who choose to go to church schools or, it seems, to any non-denominational school of their choice.

The Department of Education and Science lawyers disagree. They say that the 1980 Act does not change local authorities' statutory duties.

Mr. Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is said to be aware of the implications of the new law on parental choice. He is considering issuing guidance to local authorities urging them to provide some financial assistance with bus fares to pupils who would otherwise be prevented from attending the schools of their choice.



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### Councils 'have duty to get value for money'

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Local authorities had a duty to ensure that they were getting best value for ratepayers' money, Mr. Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said yesterday.

In a statement about a code of practice for councils in England and Wales recommending that they should publish an annual report and financial statement each year.

He believed that efficiency and economy could be secured only in a climate where essential information about the costs and levels of services was available to councillors, officials and the public.

The code is part of a campaign by the Government to strengthen the accountability of local authorities.

It calls for councils to compare their performance against other authorities, against their original plans and against their best achievements.

### Pupils graded too high by their teachers

By Our Education Correspondent

Pupils' performance at O level and their teachers' estimates of their A level prospects are both poor predictors of their actual performance at A level, according to a study carried out by a former research officer with the Associated Examining Board.

When university applications are submitted, applicants who have not yet taken their A level examinations are required to give details of their O level results. Teachers are asked what A level results they would expect their pupils to obtain.

Dr. Roger Murphy, now a lecturer at Southampton University, wanted to find out how much faith could be placed in those predictions.

Teachers tended to be too optimistic about pupils' results. Estimates were on average nearly a grade too high.

Dr. Murphy's findings are published in this month's issue of the British Journal of Educational Psychology.

### Palace Theatre fit for a prince emerging as builders make way for players

With advance bookings worth nearly £300,000 from as far field as Birmingham and Scotland, the long-held dream of Manchester becoming the home of a national theatre seems likely to be realized.

The Palace Theatre, Manchester, which has been closed for three years and is being reconstructed at a cost of £3m, is due to open on March 18 with a six-week run of the musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, followed by a Royal Opera season.

A gala night has been arranged for March 22, with the Prince of Wales as principal guest and stars such as Paul Scofield, Danny La Rue and Lynn Seymour also present on the other side of the lights.

The modernization of the Palace has involved a substantial engineering task, taking in an adjoining office building and extending the stage area to 5,100sq ft, the biggest in Britain apart from the Royal Opera House. Work is on schedule, according to Mr. Forbes Cameron, the publicity and promotions director.

On a recent conducted tour it looked as impossible for the

### Regional report John Chartres Manchester

work to be completed on time as it does when looking around, say, the Motor Show on the day before opening, but one could see that the special charm and atmosphere of a theatre created in the heyday of plush velvet, gilt plastic relief work, decorated mirrors and polished brass handrails was being retained.

The decision to go ahead with the Palace project was made only nine months ago after three years of wrangling during which the future of that theatre and Manchester's Opera House hung in the balance.

The city of Manchester, Greater Manchester County Council and the Arts Council of Great Britain have contributed probably the biggest individual donation came from Mr. Raymond Slater, chairman of Norwest Holst, the civil engineering and construction company which set up the Palace Theatre Trust in 1978 to buy the building.

Mr. Slater is involved in another possible development in the area around the theatre including the building of a 2,500-seat concert hall, an hotel and a museum.

The Royal Opera's first Outside Kingdom season outside London for 17 years runs from May 7 to 30 presenting *Tosca*, *Otello*, *Lohengrin* and *The Magic Flute*.

Later attractions include a National Theatre season in June, a Doyly Carte farinight and visits from the London Festival Ballet and the Glyndebourne Opera.

One of the most interesting aspects of the advance booking programme, Mr. Cameron thinks, is that a substantial number of people are planning to come over the Pennines from Huddersfield, Leeds and points further east. It was always hoped that the building of the trans-Pennine motorway would bring cultural interests closer between what used to be called Yorkshire and what used to be called Lancashire.



PARLIAMENT, February 23, 1981

## Report on cost of fuel to industry before NEDC next week

House of Commons  
The National Economic Development Council (NEDC) will report on the cost of fuel to industry before the Council meets next week.

Mr. Howells (Guldford, C) answering questions on energy prices for industry said it was agreed at the NEDC meeting in January that British industry generally was not at a disadvantage compared to its international competitors over energy costs and that the Government had made clear its concern that certain energy intensive industries are having to pay more for their energy than some of their competitors overseas.

If the pound continued to strengthen against European currencies, it could lead to increasing disparities in energy prices in sterling terms.

Mr. Garry Waller (Brighouse and Spenborough, C) would be sure that it is rather better known than it is now that industrial energy prices on the Continent are rising as fast as they have been in this country. That is not generally realized.

Mr. Howells: The concern of the NEDC task force is with the high rate and large users where it seems to be agreed that disparities exist. It is correct to say that the gas board wanted but he insisted that British Gas imposed higher prices on industry.

Mr. Howells: The answer to his first question is March 4. The British Gas Corporation's industrial energy pricing policy is determined by economic pricing principles which the Government adheres to and which are in accordance with the European Community's rules.

Domestic energy prices are about half those in France and Germany. It is recognized that in the long run, the price differential is likely to be reduced.

Why does the Government continually prevaricate on energy prices? When can we have a definitive statement as to Government policy on the matter?

Mr. Howells: The NEDC task force was created to identify the precise areas where those allegations and beliefs appeared to be more than feelings. It was recognized some time back by the Government there are disparities with bulk users of energy and the Government is continuing to work on this.

Mr. Howells: I do not want to take the opportunity to comment on the report which is being studied closely by the Government.

Mr. Miller has a valid point that the cost structure of the electricity industry with a growing nuclear component and a hydro-electric component is bound to be increasingly favourable to the future which is why the Government believes we should have a modest but expanding nuclear programme.

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## Radioactive container dangerous if opened

The danger which could arise if anybody tampered with the radioactive source lost from Royal Ordnance's (RO) container was emphasized by Mr. Roy Speed, Under Secretary for Defence, Royal Navy, in a statement. Mr. Speed (Ashford, C) said that the missing source, used to measure radioactive instruments, was found to be missing from its normal position on February 5. Searches in the base had failed to locate it and a board of inquiry had been set up.

The source was in a specially designed container and was not immediately hazardous to health provided it was not tampered with.

Mr. Richard Douglas (Dunstable, Lab): Would he confirm that the day on which the material was last found to be available in the base at Royal Ordnance was the day of the disaster?

Mr. Speed: I am not sure that the day of the disaster was the day of the disaster. It was a matter of some time before the source was found to be missing. It was a matter of some time before the source was found to be missing.

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port at least within the next few days so that we may get some indication there. The container weighs some 24 lbs and has a diameter of 10 inches. It is painted bright orange and marked with the words "Radioactive Material".

With the unit closed and at a normal range the dosage rate is insignificant. The danger could be if the inner container holding the radioactive material were to get out. Any member of the public finding it is advised to leave it alone and immediately contact the Ministry of Defence police or the Fire Police.

Mr. Barry Henderson (East Fife, C): Conservative MPs share Mr. Douglas's concern. What is the scale of the efforts being made to recover this dangerous material?

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steel container within which it is held or touched on the outer lead container.

For example, contact with the surface of the closed container, which would have to be opened with a special tool to get at the inside stainless steel container, would involve a dosage of 20-30 millirems per hour.

If the container were held it would take 16 hours for the legal dosage for one year to be reached. The container would be opened the dosage rate would be 1,200 millirems per hour, that would give something like three hours for the legal dosage to be reached.

Mr. William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): How safe was the inner shell protecting the radioactive source itself? Would it not corrode for many years and therefore there would be no dispersal in the sea water and no danger to animal or marine life?

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approval was expected to cost no more than 10 per cent of the selling price of an appliance which should be more than outweighed by the benefits to consumers of more efficient appliances.

The Government intended to apply the powers first to those appliances such as oil-fired central heating systems, which were already being replaced by gas.

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Law Report February 23 1981

Court of Appeal

## What 'during business hours' means

Regina v. Basildon District Council, ex parte Brown. Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn. [Judgment delivered February 18]

The Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls dissenting, dismissed an appeal by Mr. David Terebin Brown of South Woodford, Essex, against the refusal of the Divisional Court (Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Woolf) on July 17, 1979, to grant him an order of certiorari to quash a decision of the Council's Licensing Committee to refuse a licence to sell fruit and vegetables at the Basildon town centre market.

Regulation 2B(1) of the Market Regulations, to which Mr. Brown's licence was subject, provided that the licence could be "determined at any time by the council giving to the licence holder... three months' notice in writing".

By regulation 4 "The licence holder shall attend at the stall on every market day for the purpose of conducting his business there during business hours".

The majority of the court held that regulation 4 required a full-time attendance of a stallholder at his stall and that Mr. Brown's licence had been validly terminated by the council.

Mr. James Bullen for Mr. Brown and Mr. Charles Fay for the council. The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr. Brown had worked in the Basildon market since 1965 and since 1968 had held a licence in his own name, building up a successful business with a stall of eight.

His stall had been to go with a driver and van to Covent Garden and other markets to buy fruit and vegetables. He arrived there at about 3.30 am, bought from wholesalers, loaded his van, returned to Basildon and set up his stall at 7.30 am. He stayed on the stall selling goods to the public until about 11 am or 12 noon. The council then asked him to leave the stall and to return to his home.

Mr. Brown's licence was a case of "during business hours" in the regulations? His Lordship would say that they meant that the trader was to be present at the stall during business hours, just as when one said "I am in the office" it meant that one was to be present in the office during business hours.

There has been no change of policy. The council has been simply being enforcing the existing law. Lord Chief Justice Templeman said that the council was enforcing the law which it attributes to the council. He said that the council was enforcing the law which it attributes to the council.

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a statutory market when for years they had led everyone to believe that it was in 1965 had said that it was a market authority within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, 1954.

It was quite unreasonable to expect a green grocer like Mr. Brown to attend at the stall all day after he had been up for most of the night going to Covent Garden. The council's interpretation of regulation 4 that a stallholder must attend at all times during business hours was wrong if an administrative body put a wrong interpretation on its regulation it misdirected itself in law. That was a good ground for upsetting an administrative decision at any rate a decision revoking a licence: see *Concove v Home Office* (1976) QB 629, 631.

His Lordship would allow the appeal on the ground that the council had wrongly interpreted regulation 4 as requiring Mr. Brown to attend throughout all the hours on every day from 8 am to 5.30 pm, even though he had been up since 2 am going to Covent Garden to buy his vegetables and fruit. That misdirection vitiated their decision.

LORD JUSTICE TEMPLEMAN said that the crucial question was whether the council required Mr. Brown to attend at the stall during business hours. He said that the council was enforcing the law which it attributes to the council.

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## HOME NEWS

### Big rate increases are proposed for two northern cities

The 130,000 householders in Manchester face a big increase in rates this year after the city's finance committee yesterday recommended a 35 per cent rate increase.

A statement said that to avoid higher increases more than £6.75m had to be trimmed from committee budgets. The recommended savings include £1,197,810 from social services, more than £500,000 from recreation and nearly as much from environmental services.

The statement also said that income had been increased by raising council house rents by an average of £2 a week and by greater contributions to the general rate fund from the Manchester International Airport Authority.

Mr Norman Morris, leader of the council, said the black grant system favoured the wealthy shire counties and deprived needy urban areas such as Manchester.

"This is the year in which the Government's 'Alicia in Wonderland' financial innovations make nonsense of the efforts of local authorities to produce sensible budgets," he said.

**Liverpool decision:** By the voting vote of the chairman, the Liberal leader, Sir Trevor Jones, Liverpool policy and finance committee yesterday decided to recommend a rise of 21.5 per cent in the domestic rate for next year.

The general rate, paid by industry and commerce, would rise by 18.5 per cent.

The proposals will not go through the city council unopposed, however, as the Labour group are opposed to the big cuts in spending needed to keep the increase down from a projected 50 per cent together with a £3.50 rent rise.

The Conservatives are also drawing up a budget, aimed at a rate increase of only 13 per cent.

No party can get its proposals through without the support of one of the others.

**Buses halted:** The municipal bus services in Liverpool will be halted for 24 hours today as crews stage a lightning strike to lobby the Merseyside County Council meeting in protest at projected big cuts in services and possible redundancies.

**Going down:** The policy and resources committee of Eastbourne Borough Council has recommended a rate of 27p in the pound, a reduction of 2.95p (9.8 per cent). Added to the precept to be levied by East Sussex County Council, that will mean a general rate of 140p in the pound, an increase of 6.6 per cent.

### Whitehall brief: The power struggle taking place in Committee Room 15

### MPs will seek to reinvent medieval wheeze

By Peter Hennessy

News that the Commons Select Committee on Procedure (Supply) is meeting this afternoon to hear evidence from the Treasury is not likely to lead to a stampede of lobby correspondents and members of the public down the Committee Corridor at Westminster.

At first sight, the discourse between the MPs under the chairmanship of Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing and a former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and the Treasury team led by Mr Michael Bridgeman, looks as promising as a bowl of porridge, food fit only for the kind of PhD thesis that can never find a publisher.



Mr Terence Higgins: Seeking cash control.

But the initial impression would be wrong. For Mr Higgins and his 14 colleagues are at the start of an enterprise that could restore to Westminster the kind of power over Whitehall it has long since lost by giving it back effective control over the purse strings, or, in snuffy constitutional language, the right to grant or withhold supply.

The beauty of the Higgins committee is that it is set fair to reinvent the earliest wheeze devised by Parliament in the fourteenth century as a means of acquiring leverage over the monarch's Kings. If the monarch failed to respect the rights of the nascent House of

Commons, while affording backbenchers the chance to examine aspects of policy, administration, and spending on a certain number of days each session.

The key to devising a highly effective reform could be the plugging in of the 14 new departmentally related select committees to the supply system. They could prove to be just the right kind of body, in terms of size and specialist support staff, to do a thorough job on the Government's spending plans, reporting to the whole House in time for backbenchers to raise the roof should the occasion demand.

Should the Higgins committee, which is fired by the widespread desire on many sides in the Commons to reassert the rights of backbenchers, take a strong line in their report (which may be ready by the summer) the steady tilting of the balance of power against Westminster and in favour of Whitehall in the twentieth century could be reversed.

Short of Mr Bridgeman's disclosing a Cabinet secret, this afternoon's hearing will not hit the headlines in tomorrow morning's newspapers. But the technical language and the intractable subject matter should not obscure the fact that, in the phraseology of the "Kremlinologist", a "power struggle" of the first importance is under way in Committee Room 15.

Mr Bradshaw writes of the need to retain the right of the Government to ensure that its money comes through regularly and the right of the Opposition to choose subjects it wants to

Commons to have its grievances redressed they got no money to fight their wars.

At risk of causing mild offence to ministers and permanent secretaries, for "Plantagenets" one can nowadays read "Whitehall" and for wars substitute Trident missiles, investment for British Leyland, and so on. The difference is that since the Balfour reforms of 1902 the backbencher has lost more and more of the capacity to do to modern government departments what Simon de Montfort and com-

### Call to repeal law on auction rings

By Frances Gibb

Dealers flout the criminal law against auction rings and the offence should be abolished, an article in this month's *Criminal Law Review* says.

There have been no successful prosecutions under the Auction (Bidding Agreements) Act, 1927, despite evidence that auction rings are widespread.

"A law that is widely ignored with impunity is entitled to no respect and it is necessary to ask again whether the criminal law is an appropriate method of attempting to control supposedly abusive practice."

Written by Mr A. T. H. Smith, a law lecturer and fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, the article will be studied with interest by the antiquaries trade in the light of a pending prosecution against Thomas Agnew and Sons, the London dealers.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is bringing an action, seen as a test case, for alleged breach of the Act, which is to be heard on April 2 and 9 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

Agnew face a fine of up to £400 or possible exclusion from auctions for up to three years.

Among questions raised by the Act is the difficulty of securing evidence of the existence of an auction ring, the article says. Dealers can too easily close ranks against an outsider seeking to investigate their offences.

"The agreement will be made orally, and in private. Infiltration of the ring by the police is virtually impossible."

The Act provides a mechanism whereby genuine partnerships between dealers can be notified to the auctioneers. But the Act is expressed to apply only if the agreement between them is in writing.

In the antiquaries trade, by tradition and practice business is conducted orally and for cash, and much of the negotiation must take place spontaneously, it says. It is hardly surprising therefore that the Act is difficult to enforce.

*Criminal Law Review*, February, 1981 (12, 60).



Young hopefuls: A small selection of children who arrived at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, in London, yesterday to audition for roles in the stage revival of *The Sound of Music*, which is due to open in August. In all, about ten thousand children and parents went to the theatre. Mr Ross Taylor, the producer, said: "I am overwhelmed". He had mentioned on television last week that he was looking for children to play the two sons and five daughters of the von Trapp family in the musical, which will star Petula Clark. The children went on stage to sing in batches of 30. Mr Taylor picked five at a time to return for full auditions on Thursday.

### £24m insurance claim over 'scuttled' tanker

A £24m insurance claim over an oil cargo that disappeared from the tanker, Salem, 213,328 tons, before it was alleged to have been scuttled off the coast of West Africa on January 17 last year, started in the High Court in London yesterday.

Shell International Petroleum Company is seeking to recover the sum from a Lloyd's underwriters' syndicate, which is refusing to pay. It is suing Mr Caryl Anthony Vaughan Gibbs, as representative of the syndicate, who denies liability.

Mr Alan Pollock, QC, for Shell, told Mr Justice Mustill that the claim was over the loss of the cargo of 179,000 tons of crude oil bought by Shell after it had been loaded at a Kuwait port destined for Italy.

The ship, "under a conspiracy", Mr Pollock submitted, was diverted to Durban and the oil discharged. Later the vessel sailed with its tanks full of seawater to give the impression that it was still loaded, and was scuttled. "The sinking was not fortuitous, it was a deliberate act," Mr Pollock said.

Shell had recovered £14m from the SFF Association, the South African oil purchasing agency; that would be credited to the underwriters if they were held to be liable for the total loss, Mr Pollock said.

The oil was shipped from Mena for carriage to Italy in the tanker which was then called the Southern Sun. It had been chartered by a firm called Pontoil, which sold its cargo to Shell, counsel said.

When it sailed and the insurance was taken out, its documents showed Italy as the

country of intended discharge.

After it sailed the owners gave the charterers an estimated time of arrival for Italy. Thereafter they received messages from time to time through agents that it was on course for the Italian port. Later it was discovered that it had sunk in the Atlantic off Senegal.

"In due course Shell took up and paid for the documents relating to the cargo and took steps to try to recover some or all of the oil in South Africa, but these efforts were fruitless. All they managed to do was to obtain compensation in a certain sum," Mr Pollock said.

Shell had paid Pontoil \$56m for the cargo. "These matters having come to light, Shell asked the underwriters to pay and were prepared to give them credit for the amount recovered from South Africa. But their expectations proved to be naive. The underwriters refused to pay," Mr Pollock said.

Shell argued that the vessel had embarked on a voyage from Mena to Italy during which there was a loss from peril for which the underwriters had issued the insurance.

The underwriters claimed the tanker never embarked on that voyage but sailed from Mena to Durban, and therefore they were not liable.

Mr Pollock submitted that a conspiracy had been planned from October, 1979. The "conspirators" had collected the price of the oil from SFF and scuttled the ship in the Atlantic to conceal what had happened.

The hearing continues today.

### Protesters delay inquiry on house sales

From Ronald Faux

About a hundred demonstrators pushed their way into Dundee's council chamber yesterday as a public inquiry opened into the council's defiance of the Government over the sale of council houses. The start of the hearing was delayed as the protesters crowded into the room; when they were told that standing was not allowed they sat down in front of Mr Hugh Morton, QC, the inquiry chairman.

After about twenty minutes the police were called. Mr Charles Bowman, leader of the Labour group and convenor of housing for the city, appealed for order as demonstrators outside the building chanted slogans and demanded that the council keep up its hostility to Council house sales. They eventually withdrew.

The hearing comes after numerous warnings from the Government that action would be taken against any local authority that failed to give tenants the opportunity to buy. Dundee was thought to be the only council in Britain still defying the Government.

### Tax claim case against Clore estate begins

The Jersey-based executors of the estate of the late Sir Charles Clore, the financier, began a High Court action in London yesterday to block a hearing in English courts of a £15m tax claim against the estate by the Inland Revenue.

Byrne Investments (Jersey) asked the court to rule that the Inland Revenue does not have a worthwhile chance of winning its case, which states that the company is liable to pay capital transfer tax on the proceeds of a sale of a Hertfordshire estate.

The company is also submitting that ancient charters granted to the people of Jersey provide immunity from United Kingdom taxation.

Mr Leslie Price, QC, for Byrne Investments, said that before Sir Charles died last July he had transferred the Clore estate in Hertfordshire, to the company. It therefore held the legal estate as trustee. When Sir Charles died that contract still had to be completed, and was completed in September.

The Inland Revenue's case against the company is that by completing the contract and receiving the sale proceeds it had "intermeddled" with Sir Charles's estate so as to become liable for capital transfer tax.

The hearing of the company's motion is expected to last a week.

### Diplock report on phone tapping ready

By Our Political Staff

Lord Diplock's report on the extent of telephone tapping authorised by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is to be published on March 3.

Last June Mr Whitelaw appointed Lord Diplock, a senior Law Lord and chairman of the Security Commission, to be the "independent monitor" of communications interceptions authorised by the Home Secretary.

The decision to appoint a monitor was the Government's sole concession to the concern aroused over the alleged extent of tapping reported in the *New Statesman*.

### Television series to be abandoned after High Court ruling on union blacking

The television series, *Unforgettable*, is to be abandoned after a High Court judge in London yesterday refused to stop a union blacking the series.

An official of Hadmor Productions, of Croydon, south London, which made the 13-part series about pop music stars, said the studio would be made redundant and the 120 staff laid off from today pending the result of the appeal.

Mr Justice Dillon said yesterday that in his view there was not sufficient evidence of any unlawful conduct by the union, the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, or its officers.

Hadmor had sought temporary orders forcing the union and three named officials to lift the blacking instruction.

Four of 13 half-hour episodes had been broadcast before the programme was taken off the air by Thames Television.

Mr David Heath Hadfield, a director of Hadmor, said: "This is a blow, not only to our company, but also to a lot of people like us."

Mr Robert Hamilton, a union national organizer, said he was delighted with the decision.

Giving judgment, the judge said that at the full trial of Hadmor's action it would be "more than likely" that the union could establish the existence of a trade dispute. The terms under which films made by facility companies such as Hadmor should be shown on Thames were capable of being the subject of such a dispute.

The judge said the union had claimed that its objection to the showing of the *Unforgettable* films was that they had been sold to Thames at cut price with the object of getting publicity for a band with which one of Hadmor's directors was connected.

Hadmor's claim that they had sold at the market price would have to be examined at the full trial, the judge said.

### Science project for schools wins minister's approval

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

When a level pupils are unaware that a cow must have a calf before it will give milk, and particularly when some of those pupils live in a dairy county like Devon, there is something amiss in teaching, according to Mr John Lewis, senior science master at Malvern College and director of a project called Science and Society.

Introducing the scheme, he said in London yesterday that ignorance among students about agriculture was disclosed in a survey which also indicated a similar lack of understanding about matters affecting health and medicine.

The purpose of the Science and Society venture was to create an awareness among all groups of pupils, whether or not they were following science

courses; it was not an alternative to any part of the curriculum.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Education and Science, gave the project his support, describing the venture as one of the most significant and optimistic developments in school science. He said awareness of the close relationship between science and the everyday world should be encouraged among young people of all levels of ability.

The Science and Society syllabus includes short essays prepared by the Association for Science Education working with Heinemann, the publishers. The course has been tried in colleges of further education and in 51 schools, including comprehensives, sixth-form colleges and independent schools.

### Firms' staffs abroad may be watching pirated TV

By David Nicholson-Lord

Thousands of Britons working abroad may be watching illegally broadcast television programmes "pirated" by their companies, it was claimed yesterday.

The boom in video-recordings has resulted in many internationally known companies deliberately breaching copyright to record popular British programmes for staff in the Middle East, Africa and the North Sea oilfields, according to Mr Iain Muspratt, managing director of Guild Sound and Vision Ltd.

He was speaking after an action by his company, supported by the BBC and an independent television company, against Sir Alfred McAlpine International Ltd, the construction group.

McAlpine has paid £3,500 damages in an out-of-court settlement over the unauthor-

ized use of television material for its project staff in Sudan.

According to Guild Sound and Vision, about half the estimated £5m market is catered for by illegally acquired material.

The company has gone to the courts after investing some £750,000 in buying the copyright for programmes from the television companies and arranging for the export of recordings.

McAlpine said last night that the programmes had been recorded for more than 100 British staff, including families, in Sudan. "We did not believe we were infringing copyright, but we took legal advice and it turns out that we were."

Under the terms of an injunction, all showings of recorded British television programmes at the Sudan camp had now stopped.

### Dentist will not be prosecuted over man's death

From Our Correspondent

Workington

No criminal proceedings are to be taken against a dentist who administered an anaesthetic to two patients, one of whom subsequently died.

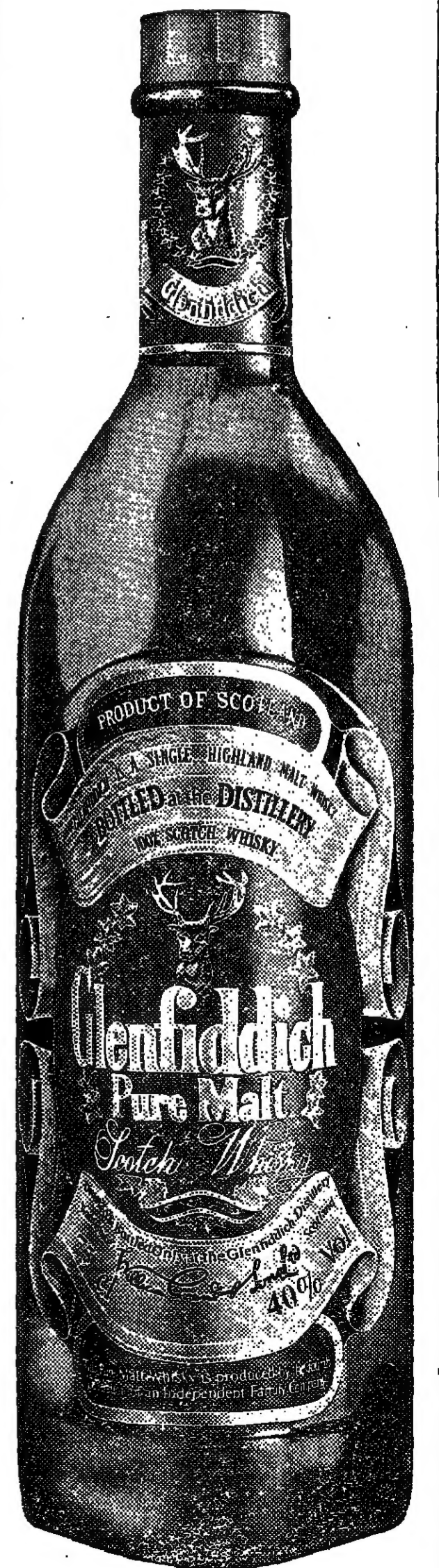
The patients visited the surgery of Mr Neil Parker, Egremont, Cumbria, last September and collapsed after the anaesthetic was injected.

Both were admitted to hospital and Mr Paul Pickering, aged 23, a married man with two children, of Longcroft, Egremont, died after two weeks in hospital on a life support machine.

A police file on the incident was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Cumbria police said yesterday that he had decided that there will be no criminal proceedings.

# Beware the Ides of March.

March 10th.  
Budget Day.  
Those of you who purchase Glenfiddich now, can reflect on the news with a smile.



### EEC grant for energy from waste tests

A grant of £100,000 from the European Economic Community will enable a team from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology to test the theory that a worthwhile contribution to the nation's energy needs could be made by reprocessing industrial waste and effluent.

With the grant the institute's pollution research group intends to build a pilot plant at the sweet factory of Swizzles, Matlow, in New Mills, Derbyshire.

The waste products should reduce factory fuel costs by 15 per cent.



## WEST EUROPE

## Tornado jet gives Bonn new set of problems

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 23

West Germany's dilemma over arms exports has been deepened by a request from Britain to sell jointly produced Tornado aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

The British move finds Bonn already torn by the prospect of a huge arms deal of its own with the Saudis.

The strategic, political and economic advantages to the West Germans in selling arms to Saudi Arabia—its biggest oil exporter and creditor—have clashed with the Government's own export restrictions and its historically sensitive relations with Israel. Large numbers of the ruling Social Democratic Party oppose such a deal.

Mr Geoffrey Partie, Under-Secretary of State for Defence (RAF), is understood to have pressed the Germans, during a visit here last week, to agree to a possible sale of Tornados to the Saudis.

The supersonic multi-role combat jet is produced jointly by Britain, West Germany and Italy and can be exported only with the consent of all three.

Saudi Arabia has not actually asked for the Tornados, in fact, but the Saudis, who are virtually the whole of Saudi Arabia, are aware of Saudi interest in the aircraft and its anxious to take advantage of it.

Unconfirmed reports put the number of aircraft involved at 100, while some West German newspapers claimed today that it was 200. If West Germany did not consent to the deal the Saudis would be expected to turn to American or French competition.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Government spokesman, has said the Cabinet will discuss the question at its weekly meeting on Wednesday.

Until now the Government has banned all arms exports to areas of tension as a matter of principle. Now the Chancellor and Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, are pressing for a change in the rules so that the Government can permit exports to such areas if it is in the overriding national interest.

It appears doubtful, however, whether Britain will get a quick answer. Since the prospect of selling some 300 Leopard 2 tanks and other modern weapons to Saudi Arabia arose, the Government and the two coalition partners have been in the process of re-examining their arms exports policies.

## EEC Parliament move leads to controversy

By David Wood

The decision of the managerial bureau of the European Parliament to hold a second plenary session in Strasbourg, mainly to discuss the European Commission's proposals for 1981 farm prices, has already become a subject of controversy.

Carried by 11 votes to nine in the bureau last week, the decision means that Parliament will meet in Strasbourg on March 23-25, simultaneously with the summit council meeting in Maastricht and the meeting of the council of agricultural ministers on March 23-25.

The main purpose of the plenary session is to influence the council of agricultural ministers, the national governments in their attitude to farm price increases.

The likelihood of a strike by parliamentary staff is growing. Parliament is moving resolutely towards one seat for all plenary sessions, which would have the effect of cutting out Luxembourg where the staff have their homes and work.

## Paris schoolboy routs burglars

Paris, Feb 23.—French newspapers today paid tribute to a 12-year-old boy who fought off four burglars with an airgun and a penknife.

Nicolas Matarrese was alone at home in the Paris suburb of Ivry-sur-Seine when the gang burst in. He shot one in the arm, stabbed another in the shoulder and sent all four running. — Agence France Presse.

## How 'Liberation' was imprisoned by harsh economic facts

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 23

For seven years, the leftist daily newspaper *Liberation* successfully defied the accepted rules of modern newspaper production and management. Its staff took pride in the fact that they were not professionals in business or in journalism; that there was no editorial hierarchy, or indeed any hierarchy at all; that all those who worked for it were paid exactly the same token salary, whatever their responsibilities; and that it was produced by consensus of all its members on the lines of a collective or commune.

But the harsh realities of economic life—and paradoxically, its success—have in the long run got the better of this last concrete survival of the great liberatory dream of May, 1968, of which it is a belated offshoot.

A last "memorial" issue was on sale today at kiosks and bookstalls. Publication is now being suspended for several weeks while a more down-to-earth, workmanlike pattern of this unique contribution to the Paris press is hammered out.

A transitional version of *Liberation* will fill the gap



Police standing by as a tank smashes through a barricade erected by squatters in Nijmegen.

## Police use tanks to evict squatters in Nijmegen

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam, Feb 23

Violent confrontation between police and squatters today spread for the first time to the Dutch provinces. In the centre of Nijmegen, near the border with West Germany, nearly 2,000 policemen used tear gas and three tanks as bulldozers to evict 150 squatters from 14 houses and one warehouse which are being demolished to make way for a car park.

The police first had to remove forcibly hundreds of demonstrators who had blocked the streets leading to the houses. Then 500 policemen moved in behind the tanks and stormed into the buildings.

The police went into action in the early hours of this morning after a court had given the squatters until midnight

last Saturday to leave of their own accord. Before the action, a police helicopter dropped leaflets warning the squatters that the police had orders to shoot if molotov cocktails or other incendiary devices were used against them.

The operation took two and a half hours, and eight policemen were injured by bricks hurled by the demonstrators. It is not known how many squatters and their sympathisers were injured. Five people were arrested.

The city centre and the bridge over the Waal river, one of the main routes into the city, were sealed off for the operation. Later there were several more clashes between the police and demonstrators supporting the squatters.

It is estimated that the operation cost nearly £200,000.

Under present legislation, unions are supposed to be "registered" with the Department of Manpower Utilization. Once registered, they are expected to follow certain practices and dispute procedures.

However, the department has shown itself to be choosy over which unions it decides to register. For example, it agreed to register four unions affiliated to the non-racial Federation of South African Trade Unions, but only on a racial basis.

The Federation and another union, known as the Council of Unions of South Africa, are the only members of the independent black union movement which have agreed to seek government registration.

Others have preferred to remain unregistered—and it is these unions in particular against which the Government has issued its latest warnings.

If the vast majority of the independent black union movement remains outside the official bargaining system, this would not only weaken the credibility of the new labour system within South Africa but also with trade unions overseas.

Ever since the French Revolution, Jacobinical centralism, and the revolt of the peasants of the vendée, regional cultures and idioms have been suspect.

Until not so long ago, the Breton language was banned in schools and universities, and on the air; and little Alsatians who chanted with one another in their native Germanic dialect got boxed on the ears at school, even though it remained the language of the ordinary people after the return of the province to France in 1918.

The teaching of German was banned in Alsace primary schools.

Generations of Alsace public men, whose patriotism was never remotely suspect, have pleaded in vain for the official recognition of the dialect.

The second cultural charter of Alsace, solemnly signed this week in Strasbourg by M Jean Philippe Locat, the Minister of Culture and Communication, solemnly acknowledges that the Alsace dialect is "a fundamental and very vigorous element of the Alsatian cultural heritage".

Lieutenant Botha was charged with the murder of an African child. Rifleman Jan Hartingh, aged 20, told the court at Klerksdorp, 100 miles south west of Johannesburg, that he, Lieutenant Botha, aged 19, and four soldiers piled into a car at their barracks in Kimberley, 300 miles from Johannesburg, where they planned a weekend free from Army discipline.

Private Hartingh said Lieutenant Botha was shooting at traffic signs along the road. A group of children were walking along the road, homebound, bound after a morning at school, the court was told. Among them was Petrus Makwabe, aged nine, and Christian Thipe, aged 12.

Private Hartingh said Lieutenant Botha aimed the rifle at the children from across the car roof.

Lieutenant Botha is charged with the murder of a child, and Private Hartingh with the attempted murder of Christian Thipe. Three other national servicemen, Privates Christo Gouwus, aged 20, Lester du Toit, aged 19, and Hendrik Kookemmer, aged 20, are charged as accessories. They have pleaded not guilty.

The hearing continues tomorrow.

## OVERSEAS

## South Africa plans tough line against black unions

From Nicholas Ashford, Johannesburg, Feb 23

The South African Government is planning to take a tougher line with the country's rapidly expanding and increasingly militant black trade unions.

At the weekend Mr Fanie Botha, the Minister of Manpower Utilization, said that the newly established industrial court may be used to discipline certain unions.

The warning follows a speech last week by General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, in which he said that labour unrest was being planned by the banned African National Congress, using "front organizations" for this purpose.

Taken together the two speeches represent the sharpest government attack on sections of the labour movement for some time, reflecting official impatience with black worker militancy and the growth of an unregistered (pre-dominantly black) union movement.

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## White officer accused of killing child

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Feb 23

A national service subaltern in the South African Army dragged to four privates as he aimed at a group of black children: "See how frightened a Kafir is when he sees a rifle", a court was told today. [The term Kafir for black is one of the most insulting in the white vocabulary.]

An officer is charged with the murder of an African child. Rifleman Jan Hartingh, aged 20, told the court at Klerksdorp, 100 miles south west of Johannesburg, that he, Lieutenant Botha, aged 19, and four soldiers piled into a car at their barracks in Kimberley, 300 miles from Johannesburg, where they planned a weekend free from Army discipline.

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The hearing continues tomorrow.

## Dr Runcie expects missionaries to leave Iran tomorrow

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The release and imminent return of the three British missionaries held in Iran was announced by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, to the opening session of the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday.

"You will share, I know, my delight at such an outcome after so many months of prayer and anxiety," he also paid a striking tribute to the Iranian authorities.

He expected the missionaries to return tomorrow, and referred to the "extraordinary Christian dignity and fortitude" which they had maintained throughout their imprisonment. He praised the rôle of Mr Terry Waite, his special envoy in Iran, who had taken some risks and shown great courage in the course of his "nerve-racking couple of months".

"The Iranian authorities have pursued their investigation to a point where the case has been dismissed, and the evidence seen to be forged and the result of a conspiracy in a way that illustrates a concern for truth and justice, even in the midst of war and internal difficulty."

"I hope very much that this will lead to better understanding between the Iranian authorities and the Anglican Church, as well as between Iran and Britain, and that we can look forward to a new chapter of cooperation."

He offered as an example to all the missionaries' refusal to react with accusations or rancour. Spy trial fear: Iranian officials will be asked today to explain why they have changed their minds about releasing Mr Andrew Pyke, a British businessman held for the past six months (Tony Allaway writes from Tehran).

Southern working with them, it was possible to detect an air of frustration at the latest twist in the story. The diplomats emphasized that as far as they were concerned the cases of all four were inseparable.

## Man in the News

## The unusual career of the Archbishop's envoy

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Mr Terry Waite's rôle in the freeing of the Anglican missionaries in Iran is the latest chapter in an unusual church career.

He is a lay member of the Church of England with degrees in Theology. Immediately before joining the personal staff of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace last year, his employer was the Roman Catholic Church, in Rome.

He spent eight years as a consultant to the Medical Mission Sisters and subsequently to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, two Roman Catholic teaching and nursing orders working with them, it was possible to detect an air of frustration at the latest twist in the story. The diplomats emphasized that as far as they were concerned the cases of all four were inseparable.

That included helping the orders to adapt to the changing circumstances of a mission in a post colonial society. The work has equipped him with valuable insight into the situation of Anglican missionary activity in Iran, particularly the problems which arise when a European form of Christianity encounters non-Western cultural barriers and misunderstandings.

His selection as a non-Catholic for the unusual post in the Roman Catholic Church was based on his reputation in Uganda, where he worked from 1968 to 1971 as adviser to the first African Archbishop in the Anglican Church in Uganda, the Most Rev Eric Sabuni.

That was in turn a development of his earlier work in England, as a Church Army officer with the Church of England Board of Education and then as Director of Lay



Mr Terry Waite: "A straightforward lay Anglican."

Training in Bristol. He was educated at the Church Army College in London, and subsequently studied in the United States, Louvain, and Rome.

During this varied career, he is married with four children and lives in Blackheath, London. At the time of his appointment to Lambeth Palace, he was described as an adviser to the Archbishop on international and ecumenical affairs. A colleague from his Bristol days remembers him as "a straightforward lay Anglican, who played everything down the middle".

## Carter policies blamed for Soviet 'ring of steel'

From Michael Leapman, New York, Feb 23

Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the new United States representative at the United Nations, says that President Carter's human rights policies are partly responsible for "the threat of a ring of Soviet bases being established on and around our borders".

She made the claim in an interview in *US News and World Reports* in which she gave the most articulate exposition yet of the Reagan Administration's approach to human rights.

The Carter policy, she asserted, was Utopian and arbitrary, it took no account of political and historical context, and it did not work. It used a concept of human rights that was far too broad, embracing not only civil liberties but also economic rights.

It was a mistake, she argued, to excoriate and humiliate people publicly, to treat them like moral pariahs, rather than to use quiet persuasion and diplomacy. "The principal function of the policy has been to move the world to a more universal level of human rights," she said. "But our approach will be different."

Taking the specific example of El Salvador, she said that the Government was reformist, but should be allowed to judge for itself the need to carry out reforms. They could not be expected to do so during a civil war.

Rebels' denial: Rebels fighting the military government in El Salvador have denied American allegations they are receiving military aid from Cuba and other communist countries (John Witherspoon writes).

In a telex relayed to *The Times* from West Germany, the Revolutionary Front (FDR) said they had not received weapons from Vietnam, Ethiopia, Cuba or the Soviet Union.

The arms used by the rebels, estimated to number about 8,700 full-time and part-time combatants, were instead made, captured or bought.

The statement was issued after recent claims by the United States that communist countries had agreed to supply the rebels with lavish military aid channelled through Cuba.

The group also criticized the efforts of Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the designated Assistant Secretary for Europe, who has been touring European capitals seeking support for the American stand on El Salvador.

## US 'proof' of communist aid to Salvadoreans

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, Feb 23

The State Department has released a collection of documents captured from Salvadoran guerrillas. The papers sustain a claim that Salvadoran insurgency is actively supported by communist power.

At a press conference this morning given by a department official, and in a broadcast given yesterday by a senior White House official, the possibility of drastic action to stop the supply of communist arms was specifically kept open.

The documents were captured by Salvadoran security forces in two lots, the first in an art gallery belonging to the brother of the general secretary of the Salvadoran Communist Party, the second from the People's Revolutionary Army, another of the four main groups that make up the insurgency. The documents weighed 18lb.

The papers mention 800 tons of arms to be supplied from a number of countries, including Vietnam, Ethiopia, several European countries and the Soviet Union. Photographs of a lorry load of these arms, and a letter intercepted in Honduras, were included in the publication.

The State Department dismisses charges that the documents are a fabrication

هكذا من الأصل



OVERSEAS

# Camp David accords are shelved as America concentrates on wider threat from Soviet Union

From David Cross, Washington, Feb 23

The United States is more concerned with the Soviet threat to the security of the Middle East and South-West Asia than the stalled Palestinian negotiations, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State has told Israel.

For this reason, President Reagan's Administration is in no hurry to reappoint a successor to Mr Sol Linowitz, who was President Carter's special envoy to the autonomy talks, or to give itself in the Camp David process, well-informed officials said here today.

They were commenting on the senior foreign policy advisers and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

Mr Shamir, who is the first member of the Israeli cabinet to visit Washington since Mr Reagan took office met Mr Haig Friday and will see Mr Reagan at the White House tomorrow.

According to the officials, Haig explained to Mr Shamir that if the new Administration was to be concerned with its overall strategy must first devote its attention to Soviet expansionism in other parts of the world.

He said it was studying Soviet Cuban arms supplies to the Central American state of El Salvador because this was

where the problem was most urgent at the moment.

But in the longer term, one of the priorities of the Soviet Union was to take over by various means—including subversion—the whole of the Middle East region between Israel and the Gulf, Mr Haig was reported to have said.

It was essential, therefore, for America's allies in that area, particularly the Israelis, but also the Egyptians and the Saudi Arabians, to bend their attention to this strategic problem.

Mr Haig apparently made it clear to Mr Shamir that Washington would do all it could to strengthen its Middle Eastern allies both militarily and economically to withstand the Soviet threat. Predictably the Israeli Foreign Minister was delighted to hear that his country would continue to receive some \$2 billion (1977m) worth of assistance next year in spite of the 26 per cent cut in America's foreign aid programme next year.

Equally predictably, he was less pleased to hear that Washington will probably agree to supply the Saudi Arabians with additional military equipment for their American-built F15 jet fighters.

The Israelis are concerned that the extra fuel tanks, bomb racks and aerial refuelling equipment likely to go to

Riyadh could conceivably be used to attack Israel.

By all accounts, Mr Shamir was keen to persuade the new Administration to engage itself swiftly and actively in the continuation of the Camp David peace process when he first arrived here last week.

One of Israel's main concerns during the run-up to its general elections on June 30 is to do everything it can to avoid any new confrontation with its Arab neighbours, and a resumption of the Palestinian peace talks was regarded as a possible means of helping to assure a relatively calm atmosphere in the Middle East.

But, according to Israeli officials, Mr Shamir willingly accepted Mr Haig's line of reasoning, for not involving Washington in the peace process at this early stage in the life of the new Administration.

One point of particular concern to the Europeans which emerged from United States-Israeli talks here was an apparent lack of enthusiasm by the new Administration for the European Community's separate peace initiative in the Middle East.

According to the officials, Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, is expected to be asked by Mr Haig later this week to do all he can to prevent the initiative from developing any further.

# Beirut calls for help after Israeli attack

From Tewfik Mishlawi, Beirut, Feb 23

Mr Chafik al-Wazzan, the Lebanese Prime Minister, today appealed for "pan-Arab help" to confront what he called repeated Israeli "attacks on Lebanese territory".

His appeal came less than 24 hours after Israeli commandos attacked the southern Lebanese village of Kfour, which is a few miles from the Israeli frontier.

At least seven people, including four guerrillas, were killed and about 15 others wounded, according to Palestinian sources. Israeli military sources said 10 Palestinians were killed and all Israeli troops returned home safely.

The main target of the attack was a guerrilla base belonging to the pro-Israeli Arab Liberation Front, which Israel holds responsible for a commando raid on the Misgav Am settlement in northern Israel last year. Three Israelis were killed and 13 others were wounded.

Israeli gunboats also bombarded Palestinian guerrilla targets yesterday between the coastal towns of Sidon and Tyre, but no casualties were reported. Long-range artillery duels were also reported between the guerrillas and Israeli-backed Lebanese right-wing militias, led by Major Saad Haddad.

Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, said yesterday that the United States and Israel were in collusion regarding their plans "to crush the Palestinians in southern Lebanon".

Speaking at a rally in Beirut, Mr Arafat said that Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, had "given the green light" to his Israeli counterpart, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, to activate plans for striking at the Palestinians and their Lebanese (leftist) allies. Mr Haig and Mr Shamir met in Washington over the weekend.

The Lebanese Government was considering today whether to submit a formal complaint to the United Nations Security Council against the latest Israeli raid.



Israeli troops leaving their aircraft after returning from a raid in south Lebanon.

# Italy seeks extradition of Jew in Norway

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 23

A renewed zeal in seeking alleged perpetrators of international assassinations on Italian soil is confirmed by the news that the authorities have called for the extradition of a Jewish woman living in Norway.

She is accused of having been involved in the murder here in October, 1972, of Wall Zwaister, a Palestinian.

The accused woman is best known as Sylvia Rafael. She is said to have lived in Paris when she married her husband, a Jewish lawyer in a ceremony in South Africa and two years later she went to live in Norway.

Last December, the Italian authorities renewed their request for her extradition.

After Mr Zwaister's death, his close friend and fellow Palestinian, Mahmoud Hamchari, was killed in Paris. The following month, Bechir Husain was killed in Nicosia, and, in April, 1973, Kubaissi Basil was murdered in Paris.

In June, 1973, Muhammad Boudia was killed in Paris and Aled Bouchiki was murdered in Oslo.

Six people were arrested, including Sylvia Rafael. She is alleged to have rented a flat in Paris which served as a headquarters for terrorist operations.

After her arrest in Norway, she was jailed for 23 months. Soon after her release she married her lawyer. After her return to Norway, the Italian authorities formally renewed the request for extradition.

# European role in Middle East vital for US

George Clark, Political Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher has the opportunity in Washington this week to convince the Reagan Administration that their suspicions of the European initiative in settling the Arab-Israeli dispute are misplaced, Dr David Owen, MP for Devonport and Foreign Secretary in the last Labour government, said last night.

The involvement of Europe is an essential step towards the ending of the peace process, building on Camp David the new leadership role, he told a meeting of the United States Association.

European involvement could be the key to the involve-

ment of the Soviet Union in the process, not as a prime mover or an initiator, but as an important and indeed probably essential factor in clinching a settlement and maintaining it.

"It would be unwise for the United States or for anyone committed to peace in the Middle East to toss aside President Brezhnev's wish to become once again involved in a search for a peace settlement."

Dr Owen said there were important nations in the Middle East region which would seek to undermine any settlement if the Soviet Union did not exert on them a restraining influence.

President Sadat of Egypt had shown enough vision in the past on this issue to justify the hope that he, too, would recognize

that there was a limited, though not dominant, role for the Soviet Union.

Dr Owen argued that the settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, remained of central importance to world peace. Few other international conflicts were potentially as explosive.

"A settlement requires that the new American Administration gives the issue the highest diplomatic priority," he said.

"Few people doubt that this is an area for United States leadership, but that does not mean an exclusive relationship."

"Just as there is a European interest and European influence to be exercised, so also it is impossible to envisage shutting out completely the Soviet Union from the peace process."

# New road overlooking Jordan Valley tightens grip on West Bank

From Christopher Walker, Ma'aleh Edumim, Feb 23

Israel's tightening grip over the occupied West Bank was defiantly displayed to the world today with an elaborate military ceremony in the Judean desert to open the longest and most expensive new road built in the territory since it was seized from the Arabs in 1967.

With heavily armed Israeli troops ringing the surrounding barren hillsides, against a backdrop provided by a giant Star of David, Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, cut the tape on 30 miles of road named after Mr Yigal Alon, the late Foreign Minister.

Covering an estimated 4.5m, the new asphalt road runs northwards from this chain of Jewish settlements between Jerusalem and occupied

Jericho, along a strategic and inhospitable ridge overlooking the Jordan Valley. Its completion brings to more than 125 miles the length of road built by the Israelis since they conquered the West Bank.

Designed to a master plan intended to link the growing number of Jewish settlements in time of war, the rapidly expanding Israeli road network is changing the map of the area.

Western military experts claim it has already greatly increased the facility with which the West Bank could be defended.

Addressing a crowd of some 250 Jewish settlers, Mr Begin stressed that the Alon Road was situated in Eretz Israel, of the Biblical land of Israel. A senior official told reporters that the presence of a right-wing Prime Minister, opening a

road named after one of his former left-wing rivals, was a sign of the "national consensus" over that part of the West Bank which would never be handed back.

Also present were the housing minister, Mr David Levy, a noted Cabinet hawk, cited as a possible successor to Mr Begin as leader of the Herut Party, and General Eitan, the Israeli Chief of Staff.

Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv.

The paper said that in the 10 months since the policy of preventive attacks was renewed, not a single Israeli civilian had been killed by terrorists on the border.

The Army's losses in the Israeli-initiated actions were four dead and 17 injured. Terrorist losses were put at 140 dead and 120 injured.

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SPORT

Cricket

# The tide continues to run against England in Guyana

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Georgetown (Guyana) Feb 23

For the third day running, the two-day match between the England cricketers and Guyana has not been started. The ground is still waterlogged, not so much because of any heavy rain in the last 24 hours as from the several inches that fell here in the 48 hours before the first day.

At high tide the city of Georgetown is some six inches below sea level. It is drained by a system of dykes, or canals, the main ones of which can be opened only when the tide is going out. The Bourda Oval drains into a most surprising system of turn runs into a dyke which is then discharged into the sea when the tides are open, which is only for a few hours.

This morning, while the groundmen waited for the tide to turn and the takers to be able to get onto the field with half a dozen others, shovelling a tiny part of the surface water into buckets and carrying it to the moat. Not even the England's most modern equipment could have got the ground fit for play. Tomorrow's cricket is in doubt. The little bit of ground to be used on the outfield is said to be comparatively good.

The news from Berbice, where there is due to be a one-day international on Thursday, is somewhat better. The ground there is above sea level for one thing, and is better than the one there, which is how the teams will be travelling. It is an awkward journey, involving a ferry across the Demerara River. Communications, too, are uncertain, like most other things in the moment, except for the fact that Jackman arrived in the middle of last night and Boycott a sore throat, which is said to have been brought on by having to shout to make himself heard at receptions, above the

sound of the steel bands. A temperature rather rules this out. Having been a regular visitor to an indoor cricket school in England, Jackman has probably had as much recent bowling as most of them. This morning Miller played himself in as vice-captain, answering with care and commonsense all the questions asked of him. Yes, he gets on well with Ian Botham, without their necessarily sharing a life in cricketing terms.

No, he does not approve of the way cricket in England is oriented towards the one-day game. Nor does he see himself, either as being certain of a Test place or having the ability to bat at number three for England. This emphasis on one-day cricket was picked up by Alan Smith, the England manager, who made the point that it is Test cricket and not the one-day version which provides the English counties with their main source of revenue.

It is now midday in Georgetown. The sun is shining and a breeze blowing, and the takers are about to be opened to let the water out. The team are hoping to put up a net on some fairly level piece of concrete which they have found. Having been bitten to pieces by mosquitoes at the National Sports Hall they are all for getting into the open air if they can. All other cricket grounds in the city are as wet as the Bourda Oval.

**LANCASHIRE** Under-19 international: Australia 208 and 151 (10 wickets 50; 10 wickets 50). Pakistan 107 and 107 (10 wickets 50; 10 wickets 50). **INDIA** Under-19 international: India 208 and 151 (10 wickets 50; 10 wickets 50). Pakistan 107 and 107 (10 wickets 50; 10 wickets 50).

## Kapil Dev tears through slap-happy batsmen

Wellington, Feb 23—New Zealand, leading by 152 runs on the first day of the first Test match against India today, were in a state of confusion when Kapil Dev, aided by slip-catchers, tore through the top order to take four wickets for 34 runs and the new captain, Shastri, skidded out the tailenders taking three or nine in his last over.

With two days' play remaining—tomorrow is a rest day—India require just 225 for victory, a task that seemed unlikely after New Zealand had howled them out for 223 today. India had resumed at 133 for four with Paul on 30 and Azad on 6. Paul, scoring freely, quickly amassed 64 before being caught behind by Ian Smith off Truop.

India were all out shortly after lunch with Cairns returning the splendid bowling figures of five wickets for 33 off 20 overs. The 'or set in early in the New Zealand second innings when the opener, Wright, went for eight with the final on 17.

Edgar attempted to take hold of the situation when joined at the crease by Reid, but Reid's innings ended when he was trapped leg-before by Kapil Dev for seven with 38 runs on the board. The captain, Howard, after an unbeaten 137 in his first knock, also reached seven before finally flicking at a ball from Paul.

Edgar succumbed to frustration shortly after when, attempting to

hook a leg-side ball from Binny, he asked a catch to Paul on deep backward square-leg when he finished 15 not out.

**NEW ZEALAND** First Innings: 278 (10 wickets 50; 10 wickets 50).

**INDIA** First Innings: 223 (10 wickets 50; 10 wickets 50).

hook a leg-side ball from Binny, he asked a catch to Paul on deep backward square-leg when he finished 15 not out.

## Rowing Why Cambridge may decide to go on a diet

By Jim Railton  
Cambridge University are giving Oxford up to 21 lengths start in this year's Boat Race on April 4 (1 pm), and that fact cannot have escaped their attention. It is all a matter of deadweight, an advantage in what could be described as a boating exercise. The Cambridge president, James Palmer, has opted for a wooden shell this year, while Oxford have indicated they will row in last year's plastic-reinforced boat. The British manufacturers of both shells have informed me that the all-up weight of the Oxford boat will be 225lb which is 35lb lighter than the Cambridge wooden boat.

Add to that the dead weight of Oxford's coxswain, Susan Brown, who aims to weigh about 100lb, and the Cambridge might well find themselves now considering a slimming exercise. Assuming Oxford's "deadweight" advantage is between 60lb to 70lb (boat plus coxswain) then according to Dr John Willems, lecturer in ship science at Southampton University, that could be worth up to seven or eight seconds advantage over the Putney to Mordale 4½-mile course.

Coxswains may not take kindly to hearing themselves described as deadweight, particularly as they are the cerebral guiding system of the crew. In practice, too, boat stiffness and riding rough water conditions may mention hull shapes are considerations. But Cambridge University for theoretical or practical considerations may think twice about their boat and finding a lightweight coxswain.

Whatever Cambridge's opinions on that subject, the first requirement of the Boat Race organizers must be to ensure a situation where justice prevails in the knowledge that the coxswains will aim their shells for what they claim to be their rightful time at the start. Last year engine problems caused the umpire's launch to be so far back at the race's start that a frowning exercise took place. Since this year's umpire, who incidentally comes from Oxford, will find himself in an independent smaller launch, he should consequently be much closer to the action. That much will be welcome.

## Hockey Better University match in prospect

By Sydney Friskin  
The annual University match between Oxford and Cambridge, which is now played for the Sun Life Bowl, will take place at Lord's today, starting at 2.45pm. This is the first match in the series but only the 13th at Lord's. It was played at Queen's Club, West Kensington, before it came to Hurlingham Park in 1961.

Both Oxford and Cambridge have had a fair measure of success this season in the London League and their results foretell a better match than last year, when Cambridge won an undistinguished game 1-0 with a late penalty stroke conversion. The stronger material available for today's game should raise its standard, Dods, the Cambridge captain, as well as Precious and Westcott, of Oxford, are in the England senior squad. Haddock, the Oxford goalkeeper, also plays for Wales.

Paul Kumbleben, the Oxford captain, was a member of the South African junior international team. Luddington gained his blue for both hockey and rugby at Oxford last season and Gordon, who strikes their corners, was captain of the England schools team in 1978-79.

Both sides have strong midfield resources and the balance of power will tilt in favour of the one who wins control there. Of the 80 matches played so far, Cambridge have won 36, Oxford 30 and 14 have been drawn.

The sponsors have invited all the players who took part in these matches in 1951, 1961 and 1971 for a reunion. The curtain-raiser will be between Langley Park and Chatham House schools.

**OXFORD**: P. Kumbleben (1st), J. Gordon (2nd), J. Luddington (3rd), J. Haddock (4th), J. Westcott (5th), J. Dods (6th), J. Precious (7th), J. Westcott (8th), J. Dods (9th), J. Precious (10th).

**CAMBRIDGE**: P. Kumbleben (1st), J. Gordon (2nd), J. Luddington (3rd), J. Haddock (4th), J. Westcott (5th), J. Dods (6th), J. Precious (7th), J. Westcott (8th), J. Dods (9th), J. Precious (10th).

**Ice hockey**  
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Quebec Nordiques 4, Washington Capitals 3. Buffalo Sabres 4, Hartford Whalers 3. New York Islanders 4, Philadelphia Flyers 3. Colorado Rockies 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 3. Chicago Blackhawks 4, Calgary Flames 3. Vancouver Canucks 3.

## Fashion by Suzy Menkes

### Post punk

The retreat from punk has been so sudden, so total and so stage-managed, that one wonders whether it was ever anything more serious than style.

Punk, you may remember, was hailed as the first genuine anti-fashion street movement. Born of dole queues and depression, it expressed more succinctly than the drop-out cult of the early 1970s, a distaste for society. Punk was described as "the hippies' revenge": if you can't change the world by spreading love and peace, then spit in society's face.

High camp Romance has now taken over from the cult of spit and sick. By Errol Flynn out of the Pirates of Penzance, has come a swashbuckling style that has been adopted in toto by the same people who gave us aggressive spikes of hair, torn T-shirts, safety pin decorations and sadomasochistic bondage trousers and black leather.

I remember feeling genuinely threatened when Fred Spurr showed his first collection of zipped vinyl punk clothes with hard rock backing and flick knife accessories at his end-of-term collection for the Royal College of Art in 1975. I only once had the courage to go into the World's End shop called Seditionaries. I never quite came to terms with parakeet pink lacquered crests and ugly plastic clothes, even when they were being worn by that nice newspaper delivery boy who was warming his ego over the dying embers of the trend.

The New Romantic look is anything but threatening. It is jolly, extravagant, and must be a light-hearted relief for the jeans-and-sweatshirt generation who have had precious little chance to dress up. They are putting on the fancy dress—brocade waistcoats, slashed sleeves, fancy hose and hats—mostly in the clubs of Covent Garden (and their equivalent in other urban centres).

They are buying the clothes from PX in Covent Garden and from World's End in Chelsea, where designer Vivienne Westwood has switched style from punk to romance as deftly as a scene shifter on the stage.

The point about punk is that those involved in the fashion side never made money out of it, says John Krivine, whose Boy shop is still purveying punk through a nationwide catalogue, and now making it pay. I don't believe that the manipulation of the Sex Pistols group or the posturing

with pins through the nose was ever done for anything but money. Other nihilists have expressed themselves without the need for an identifying uniform and music. It is quite certain that the New Romance is being marketed by its founders. I don't know (or care) enough about pop music to understand how far the music of Spandau Ballet, Steve Strange's Visage or Adam and the Ants differs musically from the other groups around. What they clearly have is a totally different style of dress and make-up—a style which can be copied and packaged.

The World's End collection (its labels say "born in England") is already being marketed. Joseph Ettedgui of the Joseph shops is so convinced that Vivienne Westwood's new style is the incoming trend that he has bought in the collection for his shops in Sloane Street and South Molton Street.

The significance of moving the new style away from its natural habitat in Chelsea or Covent Garden and into the selling heartland of London's West End will not be lost on the fashion industry.

Because romance has a far wider appeal than punk (even in its most watered-down version) could ever have, it is going to be Big. The Biggest Thing, say the fashion people, since the mini and the Sixties. What the peasant skirt did for Seventies fashion, pirates will do for the Eighties.

Since the fashion industry needs a money-spinning street movement, there is an element of super-hype in the enthusiasm for Romance. Come the autumn, the ruffles and lace, the brocade jackets and big sleeved shirts will be on sale at all levels from street cheap to high fashion.

We have been here before with punk, which was swiftly taken up by high fashion designers like Zandra Rhodes, whose posh punk frocks at £400 each made punk's original motivators particularly wild with rage. There was a season when even Paris went Punk, with designers Claude Montana and Thierry Mugler espousing aggressive zipped black leather.

So was punk, in retrospect, anything more than a fashion cult, which has been superseded by a newer trend? I think we were all (and especially the sociologists) fooled by punk into mistaking style for substance. Under most of the punk plumage has been a quite ordinary generation wanting desperately to be different (but not from their peers). Punk was taken up with especial fervour by middle class kids whose parents were the most shocked by the negative values it was supposed to represent.

There may have been a spark of genuine anger and frustration which lit the fuse of the punk movement. If so, it was extinguished by an over-kill of style.

Fashion has a habit of absorbing, trivializing and ultimately rejecting the new, in favour of the newer still. It happened in the Thirties, when Modernism was finally reduced to mass-market Bakelite bathroom fittings and Cubist printed chintz. The hippie trail that brought us Afghan coats and Moroccan robes at the height of the ethnic era, has now petered out into rows of Indian cotton factory-made skirts.

Long live Romance! Long live King Adam and his Ants! When I bumped into him by chance at a studio last week, I am afraid that I failed to recognize him. But then, as the photographer explained, he had just taken his make-up off.



Post-punk: swash-buckling brocade jacket with slashed sleeves, £70 in black, white, red, cream, blue or madras stripe; matching trousers, £35; brocade waistcoat, £30, in black, gold, cream, or pink; garters, £4 per pair; cotton sash with tied tassels ends worn as Sinbad turban, £12 in various plains and patterns, all by Vivienne Westwood from her shop: World's End, 430 King's Road, London, SW10. Broderie anglaise collared white cotton blouse from Arté, 12 South Molton Street, London, W1, and 51 Brompton Road, London, SW3. Hair by Lundy at Toni & Guy. Photograph by Tony Stone.

## Snippets



Left: Tiered skirt, soft trousers and fitted jacket, all in silk by Angela Southwell, a 23 year old student from Ravensbourne College, now in her second year at the Royal College of Art. Available to order from Harrods Evening Separates department.

Below: Reversible striped silk blazer and assorted menswear separates by Sue Nicholson from the Royal College of Art.



Red-rimmed eyes and puffy lids are a hazard for women whose eye make-up reacts on the most sensitive part of their face.

Advances in eye care have, ironically enough, aggravated the situation, especially for women trying to mix mascara with their contact lenses.

Hypo-allergenic products which are guaranteed free of irritants go some way to solve the problem. In particular, the Optique range, originally available only through opticians, but now more widely distributed, is especially formulated for contact lens wearers and other women with problem eye areas.

This month Optique have added chunky colour pencils at £1.50 in good fashion colours like mahogany brown, sage green and navy blue, to their range, which includes eye shadow and non-fibrous mascara (both at £1.65).

Their moisturizer (£1.90) and eye make-up remover are both allergy and irritation tested and fragrance free. All available from Selfridges optical department and good chemists nationwide.

# Options

I am an Austin Reed Woman, because—  
"Options is the shop that suits my life style.  
Options specialises in my sort of clothes—versatile and well made.  
Options makes it so easy for me to have my own account.  
Options gives me personal service.  
Options special secret is that it really is for today's woman."

## AUSTIN REED

Floor 3, 103/105 Regent Street, London W1.



## Bernard Levin

## £18.50 down or the devil to pay...

I have been carrying about with me for weeks a letter which appeared in *The Guardian*, and has been haunting me ever since: today, I shall try a little exorcism. Here it is in full:

As a young, unemployed, first-class honours graduate contemplating the amount of "freedom" provided by my weekly £18.50 Giro cheque, I would be very happy to have Mr Benn as Prime Minister, or even to become part of the Eastern block, if this meant that I could get a job.

Now that, I must admit, chilled the blood a trifle, for more than one reason. Before discussing the reasons, let us agree to leave Mr Wedgwood Benn out of the discussion; it is not Mr Wedgwood Benn I want to argue with on this occasion. Nor, indeed, is it necessary to argue with him, in view of *The Guardian* correspondent's succeeding words. Here is a young man at what I believe is known as the threshold of life, obviously a "first-class honours" clever, who expresses himself as willing to barter the freedoms of this country for a regular wage packet larger than the £18.50 which he gets, and which presumably represents unemployment or other social security payment.

It is possible, of course, that given a real choice between the two, he would not in practice choose as he suggests: there is a closely analogous precedent in the famous "King and Country" motion at the Oxford Union. All the same, he did say it and we have to consider the implications of the fact that a young man in Britain would be willing to accept the helot status of a subject of the Soviet Empire, because, and only because, he is unemployed and thus financially far from well off.

There is a debating point to be made first, and since this is something of a debate I may as well make it: what makes our young friend so sure that he would get a job in the Eastern block, or that if he did it would be paid, in real terms, at a rate better than he gets by being unemployed in Britain, or that if it were he would be able to buy a house, or a car, or a holiday? As I presume, a regular *Guardian* reader, he no doubt saw the excellent report from Warsaw by John Torode in that paper shortly after his letter appeared, and if so he might have stopped to wonder whether that passage was at all relevant to the dilemma he posed:

I turned for a reaction, to a middle class Warsaw housewife. She insists that things have been getting steadily worse for the past two or three years. "If there is meat in the shops there is a queue. It is automatic. If there is no queue there is no meat. You queue for chicken, for pork fat, for hard cheese, for milk, butter and eggs. In the past few days in central Warsaw there has been no bread in the shops until four pm."

An Orwellian system of shops... has been created quite cynically. There are the normal shops which are usually empty or sell rubbish. Then there are "commercial shops" where you can sometimes get good meat, pork loin, sirloin, steak, decent sausages if you pay twice the official price. Next there are "super-commercial shops" with even higher prices. Finally there are special subsidised shops restricted to the security police, to government

and party officials and senior military men. They get the best of what is going. My housewife smiled. "There is the black market, too," she said. "...We buy. It is illegal but very helpful if you are hungry."

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, but at least he got the pottage; our unemployed first-class honours graduate would look fairly blue, I imagine, if he struck his devil's bargain and then found the devil defaulting.

But that is not the most important question at the heart of this matter, and the most important question is a very terrible one indeed. Are there really young people in this country not themselves possessed by the frenzied fear and hatred of freedom which consumes the far-left groupuscules who wish to do away with the liberty of others because they cannot bear the thought of it for themselves, who would nevertheless be willing to sacrifice it to fill their bellies? I think that the letter I have quoted makes it clear that the writer is not moved by any ideological admiration of the Eastern bloc, he is merely a Soviet colonial subject, he is merely a pig. —willing to be if he could get a job out of it.

It is no use saying that young people today have no first-hand experience of the struggle for freedom. If the letter writer is not much turned 20

## Believing what we hear is always easier than thinking for ourselves

he would hardly have been born at the time of the Hungarian revolution and would have been only a child during the Czech Spring and the killing frost that engulfed it, while as for the Second World War, his father was probably an infant when it broke out, let alone him. (The Korean War he has probably never even heard of.) He is a pig, in what subject he got his first-class honours, but even if it wasn't history he could hardly be unaware that for centuries men and women have sacrificed jobs and homes and marriages and life itself to preserve or regain even a fragment of freedom.

Why does he suppose they did that? Nor can it be (by which I mean, alas, *should it be*) that he knows nothing of the conditions in which the subjects of the Eastern bloc live, of the pervasive fear that runs among them, of the system by which injustice is built into the very foundations and pillars of the state, of the incessant din of lies from official mouth and newspaper, of the corruption of power, of the cruelty with which dissent is crushed, of the moral squalor in which millions are compelled to live. Our letter-writer does not have to read me to know about such things; there is a good deal about *The Guardian*, and presumably his sources of information are anyway not entirely limited to the morning newspapers.

And yet, it seems, he feels that all this is less important, and less painful, than unemployment accompanied by a Giro cheque for only £18.50 a week, and that he would swap freedom itself for the relief from his conditions of financial stringency.

*Nemo repente fuit turpissimus.* Somebody has taught this young man to think that freedom does not matter, and that material prosperity does, and has added to the lesson the thought that they are alternatives, and has added to that the further thought that the latter is preferable to the former if only one of the two is obtainable. He had heard freedom called "bourgeois" freedom, and tyranny called the real kind; he has heard that everyone has a right to an ample and indefinitely rising standard of living; he has heard Britain's friends called her enemies, and her enemies her friends.

He heard this stuff at school; he heard it at university; he sees it on television; he reads it in magazines; eventually, he comes to believe it. Millions are exposed to the same influences and do no such thing; but believing what we hear is always easier than thinking for ourselves, and there will always be many who wish to avoid even the limited amount of discomfort involved in doing that.

And yet our young friend has surely one question to answer that no amount of accepting either people's views, or the silence, what does he imagine material prosperity is for? For its own sake? Then a pig is the most fully realized creature on earth, at any rate until it gets its teeth cut. Human beings, surely, are not so easily satisfied. They wonder, like Captain Boyle, "What is the stars?" and the more they wonder, the more questions they ask. They ask, like Montaigne, "What do I know?" they ask, like Tolstoy, "What do men live by?" they ask, like Pilate, "What is truth?" and frequently stay for an answer.

And however they answer their questions, they must think the questions more important than filling their heads with tripe and their guts with onions, and prefer their eternally unresolved enquiries to the conclusion of

the wretched slave. Who with a body full and Gets him to rest, cramm'd with distressful bread.

Or so I believe. But a young man with a first-class honours degree and no job believes otherwise, and for the sake of a few pence he is willing to have the handcuffs tightened on his wrists. I do not know how widespread such an attitude is among young people in Britain, but if there are many of them, it is a bad way. As I say, our correspondent gave no clue as to the subject of his degree, so in case it was not German Literature, I will quote Goethe in translation, and beg him to remember the lines:

Possessions lost, something lost;  
Honour lost, much lost;  
Courage lost, everything lost.

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Whatever else they may have, the social democrats as yet lack a distinct philosophy. In some ways that is an advantage. As the Conservative and Labour parties become more ideological and doctrinaire, there is something to be said for pragmatism and practical common sense in the centre.

However, every political party needs at least a set of guiding principles, as well as policies, both to inspire and motivate its supporters and to establish its identity in the minds of voters. The Liberals have tended to suffer from a lack of a clear philosophical position. The social democrats could well find themselves in the same situation.

The Limehouse Declaration will not do as a statement of philosophical intent. It borders on the platitudinous. In an interesting if slightly cheeky exercise the Ecology Party has set its high-sounding utterances



Armed Zulu guerrillas: can they ever become comrades-in-arms with the Zipra forces?

## The spark that set the tribes alight

Nicholas Ashford on Zimbabwe's guerrilla armies

Salisbury Is Zimbabwe heading for a civil war? This is the question which many people inside and outside the country are asking following the recent violence in and around Bulawayo.

The answer is no, with the caveat that Zimbabwe is likely to experience more factional disturbances until the country's Shona-speaking majority and the Ndebele minority work out a way of co-existing. And that could take some time.

A major confrontation between former Zulu guerrillas loyal to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and ex-Zipra guerrillas led by Mr Joshua Nkomo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been expected ever since last year's election results showed that, despite the fact of unity established by the two leaders of the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance during the struggle for independence, the country's black inhabitants remained deeply divided along tribal lines.

The equation is a simple one. The Ndebeles support Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front party and its military wing, Zipra. The Shonas on the whole back Mr Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party and its guerrillas, Zanku. However, the balance of the equation is heavily weighted in the Shona's favour. There are almost six million of them and their votes gave Mr Mugabe 57 out of the 100 seats in Parliament. There are only one million Ndebeles, and as a result the Patriotic Front was

only able to capture 26 seats, all but one of them in Matabeleland.

With the electoral scales tilted permanently against them, the Ndebeles' only real power base lay with Zipra. Although less than half the size of the Zulu guerrilla army, Zipra was considered to be better trained, better equipped with modern Soviet weaponry. It was believed that so long as Zipra continued to exist as a separate entity this would strengthen the bargaining position of the political leaders in the Patriotic Front party.

The moves which have taken place since independence to integrate the two rival guerrilla armies into a new national army were designed to defuse the long-standing, tribally-based hostility which has existed between them. Under the direction of a British military team, 12 integrated battalions (consisting of about 500 Zipra and 500 Zanku men each) have been established since independence last year, and new battalions are being established at the rate of three a month. It is planned that all of the 36,000 guerrillas who were in assembly points at the time of independence will have been integrated into the new army by the second half of this year.

However, the Zipra men have recognized that their power base was being systematic-

cally reduced as the integration process proceeded. Furthermore, many Zipra men resented what they believed to be the continuous humiliation of their political leaders by Zanku, culminating in Mr Nkomo's demotion to Minister without Portfolio in last month's Cabinet reshuffle.

Thus it only required a spark to set Zipra against their new Zanku comrades-in-arms, and that spark was provided by a bar-room brawl involving members of one of the new integrated battalions. By the time the violence subsided over 200 people had been killed, most of them Zipra, and three of the new integrated battalions were given by factional fighting.

The insurrection has raised the question whether the whole of the integration process has not been a show to be a failure. Scenarios have argued that the deep-seated mistrust which exists between Zanku and Zipra cannot simply be spirited away by forcing the two factions to train together and join the same army.

Mr Nkomo himself expressed doubts about the cohesion of the new army some time ago when he compared it to a brick wall which had been built with bricks placed directly on top of each other rather than overlapping each other. It would only take a small amount of pressure, he said, for the bricks to come

tumbling down like dominoes. In the disturbances part of that wall fell down.

The Government has, in fact, derived some satisfaction from the way it handled the crisis. Some observers believe that the position of Mr Mugabe's administration has even been strengthened. For a start, the Government showed it could move swiftly and decisively to deal with a challenge against its authority. If troops and the Air Force had not been ready to deal with the rebellion, the death toll would have been infinitely higher.

Similarly, the joint high command, comprising the leaders of Zanku and Zipra and the former Rhodesian security forces, showed that they could operate efficiently together even though their respective forces were killing each other. Furthermore, the Zimbabwean authorities and the British military training team have derived satisfaction from the fact that the rebellion involved only three out of the 12 integrated battalions already established. At a political level too it has been a success. The process of being formed were unaffected as were the integrated command and parachute units. "There has been a crack, but not a chasm," remarked a British officer.

As a political officer, he would seem that Mr Mugabe's position has been strengthened simply because the position of

his chief rival, Mr Nkomo, has been weakened. Mr Nkomo's main source of power, Zipra, has taken a hammering at the hands of the security forces which proved to be loyal to the Government. He has also been shown to have lost control over part of his guerrilla army which was acting in clear defiance of its leaders.

At the same time Mr Mugabe has been skilfully winning key members of the Patriotic Front to his side by giving them important posts. Mr Joseph Chinamano, Vice-President of the Patriotic Front, was recently made Minister of Transport. Two other members of the Patriotic Front's National Executive, Mr Ariston Chamusca and Mr Willie Musarurwa, have respectively been appointed Ambassador to Bonn and Editor of the *Sunday Mail* newspaper.

Significantly most of the Patriotic Front appointees have been Shonas who were brought in by Mr Nkomo years ago to demonstrate that his party was a national and not a tribal organization.

There always remains a danger, however, that the powerful anti-Nkomo clique within Zanu (PF) might contrive a situation which was designed to force him out of government. If that happened it would not only accelerate the transformation of Zimbabwe into a one-party state but would also revive Ndebele-Shona antagonisms and the possibility of a new conflict between them.

## The real roots of the new group

This common philosophical base may help to strengthen any Liberal-social democratic alliances that may be made before the next election. It should not, however, lead to a blurring of the very real differences between the two parties. Those New Liberals who remained in the Liberal Party did so because they put the pursuit of liberty before the pursuit of equality and preferred voluntary action where possible to compulsory action by the state. Those who joined the Labour Party did so because they took the opposite position.

These differences have persisted ever since. William Beveridge and John Maynard Keynes are arguably two of the greatest British social democrats of the twentieth century.

Yet they were both firmly Liberal rather than Labour in party terms because of their overriding commitment to the principles of liberty and voluntarism.

By the same token, Mrs Shirley Williams and Dr David Owen have shown by their overriding commitment to the principle of equality that they are at a political level too the Liberal rather than the Labour tradition. Dr Owen devotes nearly 100 pages in his book to the theme "The Pursuit of Equality" which he makes clear that he regards as a higher and more important goal than the pursuit of liberty.

The distinction is an important one. On the subject of private education, for example, it produces a clear divide between the Labour social

democrats, including Mrs Williams, who have said they would like to see public schools abolished in the interest of achieving equality, and the Liberals who would regard such a move as a clear infringement of individual liberty.

In a letter to *The Times* on January 28 Mr Russell Johnston asked what the social democrats in the Labour Party disagreed with the Liberals about. The answer is that while there may be widespread agreement on immediate practical policies to be pursued in Britain's present predicament, there are significant philosophical differences. They derive, however, from a common inheritance. It is time for both parties to look to that inheritance and re-examine the works of the New Liberals which form the basis of their modern philosophies.

Ian Bradley

## LONDON DIARY

## King Louis at the Court of St James?

I promised to pass on any straws in the wind concerning the next United States ambassador to London. I therefore give you the name of John Louis.

Louis is being strongly tipped in Washington as the successor to Kingman Brewster, the Carter appointee who spent his last day in office at the Grosvenor Square embassy yesterday.

Louis is a 51-year-old communications executive from Illinois, and a generous contributor to Republican presidential campaign coffers.

If I have the right man (and I am assured from Washington that I do), then it proves that President Reagan is returning to the time-honoured tradition of choosing his ambassadors by political affiliation after four years of theoretical adherence by Carter to a system based purely on merit.

Like so many of President Reagan's friends and associates, Louis is a successful businessman who ran an advertising firm in the early 1960s before founding in 1968 Combined Communications, Inc., a firm which owned a number of newspapers including the *Oakland Tribune*.

That company was involved in the largest media merger in American history in 1979 when it was acquired by the huge and aptly-named Gannett communications empire.

Derog. From the Folklore Society leads the February 6th day of the year, adding

wealthy family which coined its fortune from Johnson's (not the President's) and other products. In addition to campaign contributions—he gave more than 250,000 dollars to Nixon's re-election fight in 1972—he has invested some of the family money in such ventures as the Atlantic Braves baseball team, hotels and gambling.

His background in international affairs appears to be less than vast. According to one of his associates it consists mainly of a stint in international marketing of Johnson's Wax based in Racine, Wisconsin, back in the fifties.

In its usual coy way the White House is refusing to confirm or deny the appointment of Louis until an official announcement is made. But among State Department officials, most of whom had never heard of him until last weekend, the name of Louis is the only one being mentioned in the same breath as London.

## Leap here

My appeal last week for advice on when a young Whitshire lad born on February 29 last year should celebrate his birthday has brought an inundation of suggestions. It will be of no help to the parents to know that London Diary readers, applying both irrefutable logic and historic precedent, are deeply divided.

However three main schools of thought emerge. There is strong support for the young man from Whitechapel blowing out his candle on: February 28, March 1; both.

Derog. From the Folklore Society leads the February 6th day of the year, adding

28 school by quoting an Act of Henry III dated 1236 which says that the extra leap year day and its preceding day "identical in law".

George Peacock of Drifford delves even deeper into history. The Romans, using the Julian calendar, imposed their extra day between February 24 and 25, so that the sixth day before the Calends of March was made to consist of two days. Applying this theory to the modern calendar, Peacock argues that a child born in a leap-year February on a day after the 24th should have his birthday a day earlier in common years.

Equally those born in common years should celebrate a day later in leap years.

Several other correspondents argue that as the lad was born on the last day of February, his birthday should be on the last day of February every year.

But logic, and a majority of correspondents, favour March 1. Angela Rev. of Wimbledon argues that the young man was born on the day after February 28; had it not been a leap year, he would have been born on March 1. Oliver Henry of Alresford agrees, and adds a vague feeling of primitive superstition against marking an anniversary a day early.

Mary James of Welling, Kent, is a fellow-sufferer. She celebrates her son's birthday on March 1 on the grounds "that he was not with us on February 28"; but her husband disagrees, on the grounds that by then he is a whole day older. Most of the March 1 school agree, apparently irrefutably, that the child was born on the 60th day of the year, adding

that he will not have completed a year of life until March 1 this year.

Charles Harvey, president of the Astrological Association, adds a further dimension, or complication. He wants to know the time of birth, so that he can calculate when the sun will return to the exact degree and minute of longitude it occupied at the time of birth. Following this method the birthday will vary from February 28 to March 1.

Peter Vass of Epping even supplies a rough table on these lines, which concludes that the

only way to keep steady

crucial time of birth is 6 p.m.; that, the first birthday is February 28th, after that it is March 1.

They will take the same trips

Two correspondents with connections west of the Severn Bridge plump for March 1, but for a different reason; the lad's birthday will then fall on St David's Day.

Mr H. McBryde of London W14 thinks he recalls Sir J. M. Barrie donating his own birthday, May 9, to all leap-year babies. G. C. Kieffer, of Wickford, Essex, thinks the lad should have birthdays only on leap year; he would then not leave school until he was 72, and given another 12 years of further education would not have to join the unemployment queue until he was 84.

I think the parents should play safe and give the young man a two-day celebration. Birthday greetings, whenever it may be, from myself and my many correspondents, and my thanks to all who wrote.

## Cook's tour

If seeking remembrance of things past, or nostalgia as we doctors call it, is your notion of a holiday, you could do a lot worse this year than join a tour à la recherche de Marcel Proust. A journey in the footsteps and mouthfuls of Marcel in being organized this May by Shirley King, the author of a somewhat specialized volume called *Dining With Marcel Proust*. A party of about 40 Proustians will stay where Proust stayed, and enjoy the same meals in restaurants where he ate.

They will take the same trips

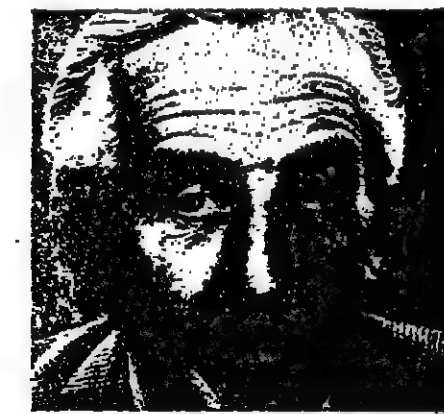
that Proust took in 1907 around the cathedrals of Normandy, with his chauffeur Gaston, whose black rubber cap made him resemble a pilgrim, or rather a nun, at speed.

There will, I am assured, be more to eat than the *petite madeleine* dipped in an infusion of *tilleul*, which is the one thing that everybody remembers about *The Remembrance*. For those who never get farther than the madeleine in their assaults upon the great and forbidding novel, it will be a relief to learn that Proust also wrote with relish and exactitude about François, the family cook at Illiers-Combray, about the restaurant at the Grand Hôtel, Balbec (le Cabaret), meals at Rivebelle (Rivebelle) and La Raspelière (Les Frémonts), dining at the Guermantes, and lunch at Odette Swann's in Paris.

It all sounds to me like a severe case of cultural indigestion and flatulence, but at least the organizers are offering the antidote of lunch at the Ritz in Paris, where Proust often lunched and dined.

Reader C. F. Grafton of London, SE19, opened a sachet of La Choy chicken flavoured in sprinkle on his Chinese noodles. Then he read the ingredients: monosodium glutamate, sugar, hydrolyzed plant protein, onion, yeast, turmeric, disodium inosinate, disodium guanylate, paprika and dried grated parsley. Didn't they forget something?

Alan Hamilton



## Courage in old age deserves a bequest of practical help

Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks

"Just as I am proud of our soldiers, I salute the fortitude of old people battling against very difficult housing often condemned to live in lonely solitude.

When I am no longer alive I want my support to continue, and it will do so through Help the Aged where flats and Day Centres are doing so much to give back the happiness that should be part of old age. I am glad too, that they send food and other aid to some of the world's desperately hungry people, for I have seen the near starvation they endure."

Gifts to charities are exempt from Capital Transfer Tax even if a donor dies within a year or makes a bequest on death the exemption limit is now £200,000.

Commemorate someone dear to you now. £150 inscribes a name on the dedication plaque of a day centre in memory of a loved one. Your family name or your own name can also be commemorated. \*£100 names a hospital bed overseas.

May we send details to you or your advisers. Please write to:

The Hon Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray King, Help the Aged, Room 17L, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## AN ATTEMPTED COUP IN SPAIN

A attempted coup d'état in Spain is bad news for Spain, and for those in the rest of Europe who are concerned with what happens there. It shows the old reflexes on the right are still alive, and that some of them are ready to turn violence. But if the incident is contained, and treated as a contained event, it will perhaps show the facility of general elections, and so put an end to the rumblings of conspiracy which are known to have taken place.

Spain now appears to have made a remarkably smooth transition to democracy. The death of General Franco, the hope has been that it would be the end of its turbulent past. Spain today is a different country from what it was in 1936, when Franco began his uprising against the Republic. The established middle class, which remembers the Civil War in horror and is extremely anxious to avoid anything similar in the future, has turned to the mainstream of opinion events with its application to become a member of the European Community and its intention of joining it.

At the time, however, there have been people in the armed forces and on the right who have been unhappy about the way things have been going. They have been upset by a number

of different things—by the concessions made by General Suarez's Government to nationalists in the Basque country, Catalonia, and elsewhere, by Basque terrorism, by plans to legalize divorce, and by what they saw as growing lawlessness and disorder in national life, typified by an increase in crime. At the same time, the Spanish economy has been hit harder than most by the effects of the world recession, and it has been all too easy to blame that, too, on the government—ignoring the fact that the international economic climate was much easier in Franco's day.

The hope had been that views of this sort could be regarded as no more than the normal consequence of the long years of dictatorship, and that they would fade away as the years passed. But even before last night's turbulence in Madrid, the events of the past few weeks, since General Suarez announced his resignation as Prime Minister, had suggested that the situation was not as calm as it appeared. General Suarez's resignation has still not been officially explained, but it was clear that it was very largely prompted by criticisms from the rightists within his own party. The resulting weakness of the governing party, the Union of the Democratic Centre, split between feuding factions at its congress in Majorca, can have done little to reassure those looking for firm government.

Most critical of all has been the situation in the Basque country. The right has no tolerance at all for the aspirations of the Basques and other minority groups for greater autonomy within Spain; this was one of the main reasons for Franco's uprising. When King Juan Carlos went to the Basque country earlier this month, and the extremists of Henri Batasuna mounted a demonstration against him, they regarded it as an affront. Then came the shocking incident when Basque terrorists kidnapped and killed a technician from a nuclear power station, which drew almost universal condemnation, even in the Basque country. When, after that, it transpired that a suspected terrorist had been tortured and killed under interrogation, the extremists of Batasuna were publicly censured. It must have seemed to many unregenerate supporters of the Franco regime that the priorities were entirely wrong; so little understanding do they have of democratic life.

The most important thing now is that the democratic process should be reaffirmed. Life is not going to be easy for General Calvo Sotelo, once he is confirmed as prime minister, given Spain's many difficulties. But all those who support democracy in Spain, from the king down, must be encouraged to persevere. And friendly countries in the rest of Europe should show that they, too, are concerned.

## R BREZHNEV'S GLOOMY SPEECH

Years ago Mr Brezhnev told twenty-fifth party congress it should feel "profound satisfaction with the force of our activity, the activity of our policy, the creative energy of our life". The Soviet Union was "growing richer, stronger and more influential", he said. Public life had become "more full and colourful". Socialist order had been further deepened. "And what can give more joy than to see how the life of the people is being aged, how its creative energy is growing?"

Yesterday's speech to the sixteenth party congress was more sober. Creative energy seems in evidence. Mr Brezhnev cited the shortcomings of technical education and described the turning away in boredom from their television sets and newspapers. He talked of alcoholism and food shortages and the trade unions to be more active in defending the rights of workers. He seems aware that country is grumbling, that glittering future seems far away than ever, and that party is losing access to the hearts and minds of the people. He does not seem to have an idea what to do about it. Technical education is the oldest in the stable and cannot be revived without a diet of his achievement.

His underlying trouble is that the gap between theory and reality is getting wider all the time. Mr Brezhnev seemed to acknowledge this by calling a new party programme to replace the optimistic document of 1961, which promised the people that they would catch up the United States and stand on the threshold of communism by 1981. Proudly he said that the new programme would concentrate on basic

principles and avoid specifics. He does not want to look as naive as Mr Khrushchev in twenty years' time. It is, however, significant that he put on record the need to adjust party doctrine to new realities. Perhaps this is the first small beginning of the major revisions which his successors will have to undertake if communist theory is to have any chance of re-connecting with reality.

Meanwhile it is Mr Brezhnev's views on the world situation that are of most immediate importance. Here too he had little new to say. In theory he could have reciprocated the West's growing disenchantment with détente. Without being inconsistent he could have said that he had done his best to secure peace and disarmament through negotiation, that the warmongers of the West had rejected his advances, and that the Soviet Union was therefore going to look to its defences, cut down trade with the West, and pursue its interests within the world without regard to western sensitivities.

Such a switch would have been very surprising. It would have been out of character, and would have involved far more rethinking than anyone could reasonably expect of an elderly leader and a creaking bureaucracy. The fact that it has not taken place therefore tells us little about the other possible constraints on Soviet policy, such as whether economic problems and consumer dissatisfaction will make for less spending on defence, or whether, on the contrary, domestic stress will heighten the temptation to raise international tension in order to divert attention and stiffen internal discipline. But it tells us that for a little while, at least, we shall have continuity in Soviet policy.

This means that Mr Brezhnev

will continue to woo the west with proposals for bringing peace and harmony to the world. Some of these are purely tactical and declaratory, designed to put the Soviet Union in a good light and to pull western opinion, especially in Europe, away from thoughts of higher defence spending. Some, however, may be genuine attempts to persuade the United States that there is scope for negotiation. A possible candidate for this category is what looks at first sight like a major concession on the military competition in the subject of nuclear weapons.

At the Helsinki agreement in Madrid, Brezhnev these measures have been confined largely to notifying major military manoeuvres within 250 kilometres of frontiers shared by participating states. The west has proposed at Madrid that all out of garrison activities should be notified over an area extending from the Atlantic to the Ural. The Russians at Madrid have resolutely rejected such a wide extension. Mr Brezhnev now says that he is prepared to apply confidence-building measures to "the entire European part of the USSR provided the western states, too, extend the confidence zone accordingly".

There are still many potential snags. Mr Brezhnev wants to include naval and air exercises. Ottawa and the Province have been talking about ground troops. And nobody knows what he means by extending the western area "accordingly". His aim could still be largely tactical—to gain the European disarmament conference he wants in order to draw western opinion away from the United States. But at least his apparent concession is a sign of movement which could be genuine and which deserves close examination.

apparatus of Canada as a sovereign state. If the United Kingdom Parliament were to act as Professor Bull proposes, viz. "disregard both Ottawa and the Province and take steps to divest itself" of any responsibility for the Canadian constitution and its future, two things would follow: 1. There would be no legal way for Canada to establish a new amendment procedure, or in general to settle any constitutional question in which United Kingdom action is now required; and 2. Any such move (amounting to a deliberate betrayal by the United Kingdom Parliament of the Canadian constitutional process) would indeed be a gross interference with the internal affairs of Canada, as the proper operation of the existing procedures is not. Such a course would be quite unreasonable, and would lead to well-justified outrage—not mere "obloquy"—on the part of the Canadians who were left with the results.

Not every problem can be solved upon the assumption that the right response is to hand it over to someone else. Yours truly, CHRISTOPHER FLYNN, Bridge House, Wincor, Oxfordshire.

## Unwelcome at table

From Mr A. G. G. Cazale  
Sir, Your Political Editor (February 18) is a trifle clumsy in his use of the word "disinvite" when describing the dinner that never would be for the Gang of Three. A simpler word in use in our family for years is "outvite"—usage suggested by a Hungarian. Even Professor Higgins would surely approve! Yours faithfully, ADRIAN CAZALE, Colwell, Fenwood, Burghclere, Newbury, Berkshire.

## Canada's Constitution

From Mr C. W. A. Flynn  
Sir, Professor Hedley Bull (February 19) has been led astray by his feelings. The involvement of the United Kingdom Parliament in Canadian constitutional matters is indeed "historical", but it is not fictitious. The Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Commons on this subject (HC 42, January 1981) sets out, with admirable clarity and precision, the scope of what it calls "The United Kingdom Parliament's anachronistic but surviving role in relation to Canada".

As Professor Bull no doubt knows, this role of constitutional amendment by request and consent was explicitly retained by the Statute of Westminster in 1931, at the request of all the Canadian governments (federal and provincial), precisely as part of the constitutional

apparatus of Canada as a sovereign state. If the United Kingdom Parliament were to act as Professor Bull proposes, viz. "disregard both Ottawa and the Province and take steps to divest itself" of any responsibility for the Canadian constitution and its future, two things would follow: 1. There would be no legal way for Canada to establish a new amendment procedure, or in general to settle any constitutional question in which United Kingdom action is now required; and 2. Any such move (amounting to a deliberate betrayal by the United Kingdom Parliament of the Canadian constitutional process) would indeed be a gross interference with the internal affairs of Canada, as the proper operation of the existing procedures is not. Such a course would be quite unreasonable, and would lead to well-justified outrage—not mere "obloquy"—on the part of the Canadians who were left with the results.

Not every problem can be solved upon the assumption that the right response is to hand it over to someone else. Yours truly, CHRISTOPHER FLYNN, Bridge House, Wincor, Oxfordshire.

## Dubious comfort

From Mr Ivan Mason  
Sir, We are told that inflation is being squeezed out of the system, and that the rate is falling and will probably be down to single figures by the summer.

But how can this possibly be so when currently and within the past few months we have been subjected to substantial, if not massive, increases in the cost of gas, electricity, water, telephones, railway fares, postage and petrol, and the horrid thoughts of the Budget next month?

Yours, etc, IVAN MASON, Broad Water, Thorpe, Suffolk, February 18.

## Helping the people of El Salvador

From Mr A. C. Clarridge

Sir, For years the British press, the religious journals and Amnesty have been reporting on the brutal dictatorship in El Salvador, where terror and death are normal instruments of government and the military carry out massacres against the poor if they demonstrate against the regime. The country consists of a large majority of subject poor toilers and a few ruthless and immensely wealthy families having close connections with the American capitalists. El Salvador is a satellite of USA like so many other despotic states in the Far East, Africa, South America and Central America which have in recent decades driven their peoples into the arms of the Soviet Union. Vietnam proved that the Salvadorians seek weapons from Cuba, once also an American satellite and despotism where governmental terror failed to prevent a revolution.

The victory of the Salvadorians is certain because a united and desperate people cannot be crushed even if America invades with napalm, defoliation and obliteration bombing. Vietnam proved that. The slender hope of preventing El Salvador joining the Soviet block is if Europe can prove by massive injections of aid to the people that we are on their side. Everything must be done to ensure that aid goes to the people and is kept out of the grasp of the Americans and the dictatorship. Yours faithfully, A. C. CLARRIDGE, 4 Hawthorne Road, Radlett, Hertfordshire, February 21.

## Keeping pits open

From Mr Dennis Poore

Sir, Few people can view recent events in the coal industry with equanimity. Criticism, whether of government, coal board or the union, serves little purpose without a constructive suggestion for a solution.

According to report, the coal board say that there is insufficient coal in certain mines for their continued working to be economic. The union say "Not so". It is entirely possible that both views are correct. It may be impossible for a huge organization like the coal board to make an economic success of such mines whereas the miners themselves working with negligible overheads may well be able to do so.

Has serious consideration been given to offering these fringe mines to workers' cooperatives formed from those who work at each mine? Their value to the coal board must be minimal in the circumstances of the current view; the terms of offer of the assets to each cooperative could therefore be favourable to it.

The failure of two of the three well-known cooperatives, fostered by the coal board, of an individual rather than a group. However, valuable lessons can be learnt, certainly from the third (Meriden) in dealing with which I had some experience. The enthusiasm and willingness to disperse with resources practices of that factory, one of the most efficient manufacturing units in the West. The difficulties centred round the lack of professional expertise in, for example, such areas as design engineering, merchandising, marketing and international finance, i.e. subjects in which the workforce could hardly be expected to have much experience.

Few, if any, of such problems would be met in running an existing mine. A workers' cooperative would surely have an excellent chance of success, to the great benefit of all concerned, including the British economy. Yours faithfully, DENNIS POORE, 1 Love Lane, ECA, February 19.

## Civil Service pay dispute

From Mr C. E. Mathews

Sir, Certain scary statements from Civil Service leadership recently are unconstitutional and naturally invite antipathy from the general public, unfortunately not only for those who make such utterances but for the public service generally.

There has been a tendency in recent years for some public service pay negotiations to become increasingly histrionic and more widely damaging. Perhaps I may make it known that I stand among a group of civil servants who, while appreciating from within the considerable difficulties inherent in securing fair settlements by these negotiations, continue to regard strike action with real living standards, dissociate from the attitudes and tactics promoted by those persons, which we find militant and not best serving of our interests or those of the service.

We consider that your leading article of February 19 weighed the situation correctly and appropriately. Yours truly, CHRISTOPHER E. MATHEWS, 40 Belsize Park Gardens, Belsize Park, NW2, February 19.

## Immingham thrives

From Mr Michael Brotherton, MP for Louth (Conservative)

Sir, I read with astonishment in your columns on February 13, the remarks by Mr Anthony Hart, chairman of Kent County Council planning and transportation committee, about the port of Immingham. Mr Hart is reported by your Morning Correspondent as having described Immingham as a declining port. As the representative of Immingham at Westminster, I must point out that not only is Immingham thriving, it is also highly profitable, and indeed on one level for the time being the pricing policy adopted by the British Transport Docks Board.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, MICHAEL BROTHERTON, House of Commons.

## Hitches for church unity proposals

From the Chaplain of Balliol College, Oxford, and others.

Sir, The "proposals for a covenant" between five English churches, which is to be debated in the General Synod of the Church of England on Wednesday, is a positive, hopeful and significant step towards Christian unity. The synod will be asked to approve the proposals and refer them to the dioceses, so that final approval can be given in 1982.

The synod does not approve them, we will seem like a rebuff to the Free Churches. If it approves them narrowly, and then fails to give them final approval by the 75 per cent majority that will probably be required in 1982, the Church of England will once again seem to have behaved with rather less than good faith in ecumenical matters. Yet one or other of these eventualities seems likely to happen.

Most Anglicans seem to agree with the main thrust of the proposals. The chief problems concern the status of the Church women ministers, and the way in which episcopacy is to be taken into the system of those churches, but even here it is not so much the basic principles implied by the proposed

solutions, as temporary anomalies and variations and provisions for conscientious exceptions, which cause difficulty. Nevertheless, we understand, a rigid deadline and the fact that the proposals emanate from an interdenominational commission mean that the synod cannot amend them.

The Free Churches, who actually seem to regard the proposals as still negotiable, will be faced with a choice between going ahead without the Church of England or of starting all over again from the beginning. It seems extraordinary that procedural difficulties should force this choice on the synod. It must be possible to devise some way to circumvent the cumbersome rules and rigid timetable so that the synod can give general approval and, at the same time, indicate where it thinks further work needs to be done.

Yours faithfully, PETER HINCHLIFF, TREVOR S. M. WILLIAMS, A. E. HARVEY, ANTHONY PHILLIPS, W. L. R. WATSON, GRAHAM SHAW, University of Oxford, February 23.

## Violence on the terraces

From the Secretary of the Football League

Sir, The Director and Senior Research Officer of the Centre for Contemporary Studies (letter, February 23) unfortunately distract from the helpful briefing on racism among football crowds by their inaccurate strictures on the football authorities for alleged silence on the subject of "soccer violence". By no means have the football authorities been silent or inactive in measures against hooliganism this season. Many of the following actions have received publicity:

Steps are being taken to ensure that the sale of alcohol is effectively controlled. An approach has been made to the Home Secretary to permit the use of attendance centres for convicted offenders. Representations have been made to the Treasury in an attempt to obtain 100 per cent capital allowances for ground improvement schemes aimed specifically at combating hooliganism. The Football League has been collecting from club administrators in an attempt to ascertain the extent of the racism problem and this information will be presented by me to a special Football League conference on hooliganism next month as which the

Government will be represented. Investigations are being conducted into the increased use of closed circuit television cameras to monitor crowds both inside and outside grounds.

These measures, together with the millions of pounds spent on crowd segregation problems and police charges, are admittedly designed primarily to counteract the symptoms rather than the causes of football hooliganism. But, although the Centre for Contemporary Studies found scant evidence of football's social conscience, may I submit that the football and the community schemes at 32 Football League grounds, all aimed at encouraging the local youth to identify with the clubs and participate in the additional facilities offered, eg. indoor sports halls, bear adequate testimony to the fact that professional football clubs are not concerned solely with winning trophies. It has become increasingly fashionable to denigrate professional football, but to be constructive, any criticism must be balanced and accurate.

Yours sincerely, GRAHAM KELLY, The Football League, 319 Clifton Drive, Tottenham, London, N15, Lancashire, February 23.

## Family matters

From Mr M. J. G. Thomas

Sir, Dr Adrian Rogers (February 12) fails to appreciate that medicine is best practised when a doctor acts in the best interests of an individual rather than a group. Does his assertion, that parents have the right to choose the treatment of their child, prevent a doctor supporting a 15-year-old girl in continuing her pregnancy, in the face of the fact that her parents do not want her to do so?

This is not the place for a philosophical discussion of parents' rights. Doctors are concerned with the immediate problems of their patients. It is sad that parents and doctors are being set at odds by Dr Rogers' publicity when both are really working towards the same end—the best for the child.

The British Medical Association has never recommended that doctors provide contraceptives for every girl under 16. On the contrary, our ethical guidelines demand that every effort is made to involve the parents or guardians in the decision. Most doctors are successful

ful in over 95 per cent of such cases. Frequently because the girl has approached the doctor, so that he can assist her in broaching this delicate matter with her family.

The massive publicity Dr Rogers has attracted is an appalling example of sexual intercourse. It is, however, making them afraid to turn to the medical profession for advice. Journalists, responsible for answering questions from young people, are reporting an unprecedented increase in calls for advice on contraceptive problems, from girls, who state that they are now frightened to visit their doctors for fear of their parents being told.

Dr Rogers' happy with this result? Is he not undermining the trust of patients in doctors, he is causing avoidable problems? Does he not realise that there are cases when help and contraception are complementary, rather than alternatives? MICHAEL J. G. THOMAS, Chairman, Central Ethical Committee, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1.

## Jerusalem electricity ruling

From Mr Terence Pristie

Sir, In taking exception to your headline "Setback for Israelis" (The Times, February 19), relating to the Israel Supreme Court's decision that the Arab-owned Jerusalem District Electricity Company should not be taken over by the Israelis, you have ignored the Israeli arguments in favour of compulsory purchase of this company. The Times has been appraised of these arguments many months ago, but has not published them.

The Israelis maintain that the Arab-owned company is unable to serve its allotted area effectively, that only 50 per cent of 130 Arab villages on its grid are being supplied with electricity, that it has inadequate capital and that it fails to keep proper accounts, and that there are more than a reasonable number of breakdowns in its services. Lack of capital has meant that the company continues to use small diesel generators which are not economic, and has failed to maintain efficient standards of distribution. (The

Israel claims are, admittedly, not proven.)

All of this was pointed out to The Times as long ago as last May, but one searches the paper in vain for any explanation of Israel's reasons for wishing to amalgamate the Arab-owned company with the Israel Electricity Corporation. Nor is it ever made plain that the Arab-owned company has to "borrow" much of its current from the Israeli corporation.

Now the Supreme Court of Israel has ruled that the reasons are not sufficient to justify the merger. This is not a "setback for Israelis"; it is an assertion of the rule of law, applied with commendable impartiality. With luck, the upshot will be increased competition between the Israeli and Arab companies, and more efficient services for everyone. That is the reverse of a "setback".

Yours, etc, TERENCE C. F. PRISTIE, 126-134 Baker Street, W1, February 17.

## Future of 'The Times'

From Mr Tom Stacey

Sir, Before we hear more about how The Times is going to be "better", may I say that in my view for the past several years The Times has been "better" than ever before in my lifetime in its depth, breadth and style of coverage. Yours faithfully, TOM STACEY, Stacey International, 128 Kensington Church Street, W8, February 20.

## From Mr Nicholas Green

Sir, At the age of 17 I consider myself one of your young readers, and as such should like to offer some words in support of the views of Mr Duckworth and Professor Lever (February 19). I personally, and I am sure, I speak for many other younger readers, am perfectly satisfied with The Times in its present form. In the future, when younger members of society are encouraged by many to make their views felt, it is both right and proper that at least one form of the media should present

us with intelligent and useful fact and comment which does not set out to make itself attractive by appealing to a taste for the dramatic and sensational.

For as long as The Times does not compromise itself by seeking to present that which appeals merely on a superficial level, but presents only that which is intelligent and true, I for one shall hope to march with it into the death columns. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS GREEN, 20 Ambrose Road, W13, February 19.

From Mr W. R. A. Easthope  
Sir, The new Editor of The Times is the first who is a Durham graduate. Harold Evans is a Cambridge graduate, having graduated from University College, which has Durham Castle as its home. I have the honour to be, Sir, also a Cambridge and your former obedient servant, REGINALD EASTHOPE, 4 Salters Close, Hayling Island, Hampshire.

## Contempt pitfall for publishers

From Mr William Kimber

Sir, While I have seen many expressions of concern about the further restrictions on freedom of speech contained in the Contempt of Court Bill, which has been passed by the Lords and only awaits the approval of the Commons, such concern has been confined to its effects on newspapers and periodicals, and I have seen no warning of a serious danger it will create for the authors and publishers of books.

The Phillimore Report, in discussing the elements of defence required for a publication says (page 60): "The requirement that the report should be contemporaneous is necessary in order to prevent the publication of a report of a previous trial, perhaps many years earlier, when the same man is facing trial again." This contemporaneous element has been embodied in the Bill. But has its effect on book publication been considered?

A man may have been convicted of a serious crime and a report of his trial meeting the requirements of being "fair and accurate and in good faith" could have formed a part or whole of a book. As the Bill stands, a book which is published contemptuously, when first published could, merely through the passage of time, become the cause of criminal proceedings from the fact that the same man has been charged again. I am assuming that "publication" in contempt would have the same meaning as it has in defamation—that the sale of one further copy constitutes a fresh publication.

Unless the right to report accurately in volume form in the areas of crime and justice is to be eroded then I suggest that some amendment to the Bill is needed. Perhaps in the case of publication in a book, which originally appeared before the second arrest, of a reasonably written account of a trial the onus should be placed on the prosecution to prove that the author or publishers had acted with intent to offend or prejudice the course of justice.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM KIMBER, William Kimber and Co Ltd, Godolphin House, 22a Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, February 19.

## Dangers to the walker

From Mr Cyril Myerscough

Sir, London's crime figures reported in your issue of February 20 tell only part of the story of the dangerous risks we run from violent assault.

Homicides in London for 1980 are put at 20 and assaults at 16,139. On the other hand, the Department of Transport's latest annual published figures for road accidents (1978) show that 16,122 pedestrians in Greater London were knocked down in motor traffic, 348 of whom were killed.

A significant proportion of these pedestrian casualties actually take place on the pedestrians' own right of way. According to the Department of Transport, no fewer than one out of 14 pedestrian casualties involving motor vehicles now take place on a crossing or verge.

Many more people of course—particularly the elderly and infirm—trip and fall over pavement surfaces broken by vehicles which have mounted the kerb. A Pedestrians' Association survey last year found that two out of five people have had this experience.

Although we run a greater risk on the pavement of being killed by a motor vehicle than by a mugger, the police often claim they cannot enforce the law against pavement drivers and parkers. Let us hope that the reported improvement in recruitment to the Metropolitan Police will enable a firmer line to be taken against this dangerous invasion of the pavement. Yours faithfully, CYRIL MYERSCOUGH, 18 Montpelier Row, Twickenham, Middlesex, February 20.

## Caring and sharing

From Mr Edwin Noble

Sir, Philip Howard in his article, "Have a care when some say share" (February 19), does not seem to be up to his usual standard. Having condemned the use of "share" to mean "import information", he then gives an example where it clearly has its usual sense, "If everyone cared enough and everyone shared enough, everyone would have enough". He then gratuitously adds, "This is a simple-minded economic non-sense".

One has only to read the Brandt Report to see that poverty everywhere in the world could be eliminated by the right use of existing know-how and resources and that to pretend otherwise is just a sop to our consciences. Yours faithfully, EDWIN G. NOBLE, 83 South Drive, Chorltonville, Manchester, February 19.

## Love's labour lost

From Mr C. F. Wilson

Sir, Sir Horace (letter, February 21) was unlucky. So was I. Tunbridge Wells sorters move too quickly. The St Valentine's card I posted on Friday at 9.15 am was collected at 10.30 am and delivered just two hours later. But then the Post Office would not sell me their special 14p stamp along with their special 11p card. Yours truly, C. F. WILSON, Augustus, Royal Chase, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, February 21.

From Mr Dan Hardy

Sir, Praise be to Sir Horace Cudger (Feb 21) and the GPO at a rational explanation of why I didn't get any Valentines this year. I remain, yours hopefully, DAN HARDY, 31 Marles Road, W8.







Britain is in the forefront of information technology, which is certain to be one of the future's most important industries

Britain's lead in videotext technology, if explored fully in international markets, could give this country, as it moves away from a predominantly heavy manufacturing base, the key to an overall market for information technology that is already worth about £50,000m a year. It is likely to grow by at least 10 per cent a year in real terms, so a market worth about £200,000m a year by the end of this decade might well be a conservative estimate.

A gloomier view is that providing the information to the makers of the television sets and other hardware, which could be taken by foreign competitors. Certainly there is some evidence pointing that way.

One criticism of most of those involved in videotext is that its various forms have been presented to the British public in such a hazy fashion as to contribute to the confusion which still exists about a product which, in one form or another, has been on offer to the consumer for four years. That is, videotext, beamed over the airwaves like a normal television programme, as with the BBC's Ceefax and the Oracle service of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

These videotext services, developed in the early 1970s, are now each transmitting more than 400 pages of information from the latest general news to specialised material. So far there are some 100,000 television sets in Britain adapted to receive videotext. The service is free but a videotext-adapted set costs an extra £100 or more compared with a normal television. Both Ceefax and Oracle at present appeal to the domestic rather than the business market.

Teletext services could be developing the mass market that the industry, from those

A good start has been made persuading other countries to use British systems which could, because there are technical links in the hardware, lead to those countries then taking up the British version of what will be in terms of social impact, the most important videotext system—viewdata.

Viewdata is videotext that comes down a telephone line like British Telecom's pioneering Prestel, invented in 1974 and already in service for two years. The Post Office, as it then was, initially had a vision of Prestel capturing a vast mass market. Now, with less than 8,000 Prestel sets sold (they cost up to £300 and the service also has to be paid for) realism has set in and the intention is first to develop the full specialised videotext line to have access to about 170,000 pages of different information. But a full keyboard and the ability to converse fully with the computer data base is really only a step away, a key building block in expanding the possibilities of the information technology market.

Behind the scenes a number of large mail order companies are looking at the possibilities of using viewdata as a means of sending up what would be an electronic mail order catalogue, allowing shopping from the consumer's own armchair, with the ability to transmit an order and make payment arrangements simply by hitting a few computer keys in the living room.

Or it would be possible to research and order a holiday; or solve problems, if you are a businessman, of tracing connecting flights and booking them direct from office or home; or, if you are a student, call up

data from many sources, including information on electronic retrieval in other countries. All these are possible future applications springing from the viewdata system, which is one reason why the pioneering Prestel is feeling an ever sharper draught of competition.

This is coming from the French, the Canadian and, potentially, from the Japanese. In Japan wrestling with the problem of coping with about 3,000 characters in the language might eventually produce a viewdata system which is far more flexible

and so produce a massive second generation threat to the other systems. The most immediate threat is from France's Teletel system which of all the foreign systems is nearest in type to Britain's Prestel. The Canadian system, Telidon, originally designed as a graphics aid, is able to produce shapes more flexibly. Although range of application is important, the key at present is securing widespread markets so that volume production is possible to start bringing down hardware costs. The French

are trying to tackle that one by creating, at the stroke of a bureaucratic pen, a large home market. Their idea is to scrap printed telephone directories in France and put them all on to a viewdata system with small video display units virtually given away to telephone subscribers. It would instantly provide the French television set makers with a mass market, giving them the volume that would reduce set costs for a selling export drive.

The French have been running into some technical

problems and a decision to go ahead with the plan has been delayed until the spring. Initial trials of the electronic directory have had a lukewarm reception in Brittany where users found the system slower than consulting the normal telephone book. But the French have already had one coup. Britain's Prestel had looked to be firm favourite for securing an initial contract for a market trial for a viewdata system for Brazil. But the contract, worth about £1m and covering the supply of computer equipment and technology, has gone to the French despite a recommendation in favour of Prestel by Telesp, a leading Brazilian telecommunications company.

It may be that the Telesp recommendation was overruled by other factors because France and Brazil have been discussing a large reciprocal trading package. Even so, it is a disappointment for the British system's salesmen.

Against that the British presence, through both teletext and viewdata progress, is already strong in a number of countries, including Austria, Holland, West Germany, Spain, Denmark and much of Scandinavia.

Although the Government has demonstrated its awareness of the importance of seizing dominance in the world market for information technology, it is clear that intervention on the French pattern is not a proposition in Britain. That means that the industry, from British Telecom, the BBC and the IBA to the microchip producers, the set makers and the information providers, will itself have to convince the impetus, first in the British market, then internationally.

Already there are some encouraging signs. There are microchip developments

which, even before higher volume cur production costs, could bring down viewdata system costs by at least a quarter. Oracle aims to improve localized information this year on its service which also, for the first time, is to charge for advertising which in turn should gear up Oracle's spending (under its service will be an economic one).

An increasing number of television sets are expected to get built-in teletext decoders as preparation for the increase in sales of colour television sets which is due by 1983 as sets sold during the mid-1970s boom come near to the end of their useful life.

Adaptors for existing television sets, which convert them to receive Prestel, might prove a key breakthrough in increasing the number of users because, although adaptors can cost about £200 at present, volume production could well get that down to near £50. There may be a case for British Telecom sharply to gear up this market by becoming a major buyer of adaptors for selling or renting.

Efforts are being made to improve the sometimes uneven quality of the material coming from the information providers on Prestel, with the various financial services, including one for commodities, setting the sort of high standard which ideally would apply to all the Prestel services. It has been argued with some force that British Telecom, instead of virtually selling space on Prestel, should effectively franchise information providers, removing the franchise if their service did not come up to scratch.

Derek Harris Commercial Editor

## Fireside access to sum of human knowledge

The sum of human knowledge in prehistoric times was kept in the heads of learned men. With the invention of writing, it became possible to store this knowledge and, by storing it, to free the intellects of men to add to and develop that store. When the sum of human knowledge could be stored in one place—the great library at Alexandria for instance—it was possible for one man to have access to all the knowledge that existed.

Anthony Smith, in his excellent survey of new newspaper technologies *Goodbye Gutenberg*, has this to say about the new media: "The interactive electronic mode of knowledge can be likened to an Alexandria without

walls, unified but universally accessible, keeping a better balance between what has been accumulated and what is to be added, emphasizing the sovereignty of mankind itself over the totality of its knowledge."

In time, it is abundantly clear that the new Alexandria will be with us, drawing on a virtually infinite

store of knowledge, on request, and at our fireside. Whether it comes via cable, or by the UHF signal to our television set, the information available to all of us will hugely increase. At present the British versions, Prestel, Ceefax and Oracle, are some years ahead of their overseas rivals. But in some cases, because they are

starting later, the foreign versions may be planned a little more sophisticatedly than our home-grown variety.

Below is a brief survey of the position in the advanced countries of Europe, the United States and Japan. I have meant that the experiment is carried out on a strictly limited basis, broadcasting only from 4 pm each

day. The newspapers have additionally set up a cable television project which is expected to begin broadcasts in 1983 in the Rhineland Palatinate.

Another experiment in the use of wide band glass fibre optical conduits is being undertaken in Berlin, where for the first time in Germany 24 households are receiving

two television programmes and shortwave stereo broadcasts over glass fibre cables. Two separate experiments are going on into a Prestel-type of system which the German "Bildschirmtext" (screen text) in Berlin and in Düsseldorf. The number of newspapers making use of the system is rapidly increasing, although the sys-

tem, as in Britain, is solely in the hands of the federal Post Office. At present 170,000 pages are on offer to more than 8,000 clients. A teletext experiment has been established in Austria since the beginning of last year, which is a joint operation between the

continued on page 17

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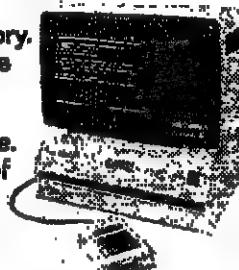
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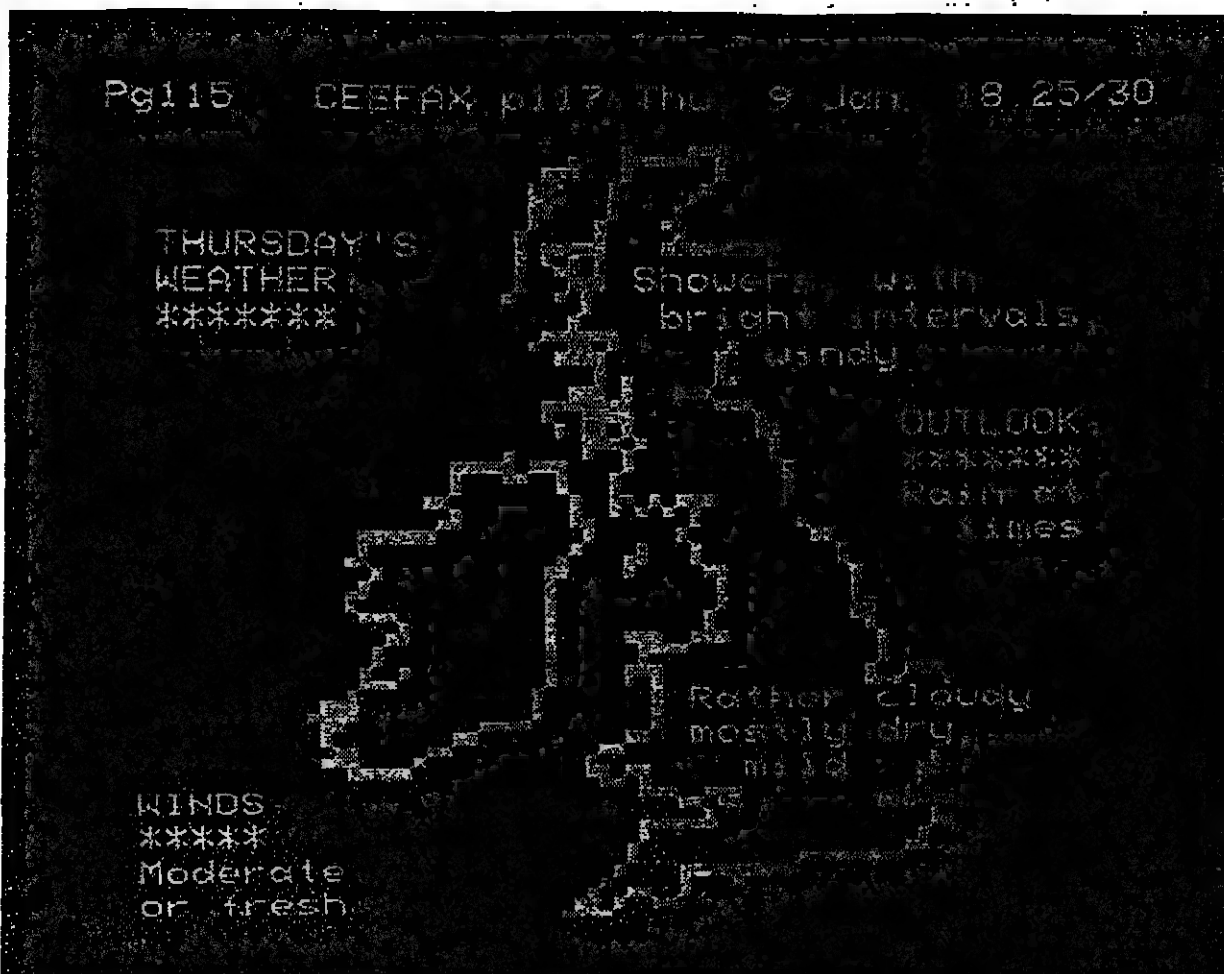


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## VIDEOTEXT

## Ceefax and Oracle groups exchanged ideas



The technological advances in teletext now marketed by Ceefax (BBC) and Oracle (ITV) were made largely by the two groups exchanging ideas.

In the early 1970s the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) were each conducting their own separate research. By 1973 under the chairmanship of the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers Association (BREMA) the two groups met frequently to develop a technical standard for the system.

Both systems use their respective broadcasting networks to transmit about 400-500 pages of information. The public teletext broadcasting service began in 1977 and there are about 100,000 teletext-adapted television receivers in the United Kingdom.

Both systems were designed to use eight of the available 20 free lines of the 625 used for television transmission. They are operating on two of those lines since such use cuts to a minimum

the flicker that is liable to result on the television pictures of older receivers. The IBA and the BBC agreed standards for the transmission of teletext in March 1974. Further amendments were to be made to that standard and a final specification was published in 1976.

Since then the BBC claims to have played host to representatives of 123 inquiring countries. Similar services, using the United Kingdom teletext standard, operate in Holland, West Germany and Austria.

Although the teletext service offers less pages than its rival, the viewdata system (BREMA), the initial capital investment to the user is considerably cheaper. The cost of a teletext receiver is about 30 per cent more expensive than a normal domestic television set. Depending on time and place of purchase a 22-in colour set will cost about £440, as opposed to a Prestel set of about £650.

The potential for the service however is enormous.

More pages could be included and more lines used for the transmission.

Oracle, because of the demand for more local information content from the users, has asked the Home Office to allow it to use two more lines.

One line will be used to improve the response time in obtaining a page while the other will be used as a means of inserting local data.

According to Mr Geoffrey Hughes, chief executive of Oracle: "When these lines are available there will be a regional teletext service, starting this year with one region and covering all ITV regions by mid-1983. At the same time it should be possible to reduce the current retrieval time to 10 seconds for 'hot pages' and 25 seconds at most for the less frequently viewed".

However, Oracle has plans to sell advertising on its service some time after the spring. Two clauses in the new Broadcasting Act have made the step possible. The independent service hopes to

An example of the potential of Ceefax... page 115 gives constantly updated weather information.

be able to allocate 15 per cent of its 400-500 pages to advertising and also be able to carry small slogan advertisements at the bottom of some editorial pages.

The BBC has no plans to sell advertising on Ceefax nor is it ever likely to adopt such a policy.

Oracle expects that advertising geared to its "15 per cent" strategy could generate an income of £5m a year by 1984.

The BBC has also been using the technology as a means of providing a method to sub-titling a number of its programmes for the deaf and the hard of hearing. Despite new equipment, however, the BBC estimates that it still takes 20 hours work to produce one hour of subtitling.

Bill Johnstone

## Euronet is the EEC link

The Council of Ministers of the EEC formally recognized in March, 1975, the importance of Europe, having its own data communication network by giving approval to plans for Euronet.

The EEC Commission had been discussing such plans as early as 1971 but by 1975 the post, telephones and telegraphs administrations, like the British Post Office, which control the telecommunications networks had formed a legal consortium to create Euronet.

On February 13, 1980, the network was inaugurated by Mme Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament. On April 25 last year the London link within the network was formally opened. It operates using a technique called packet switching through which batches of data are transmitted at high speed between locations separated by hundreds of miles.

Packet switching exchanged at Frankfurt, Paris,

Rome, London and Zurich represent the backbone of the network. Each also remote access points within the network that connect to the nearest packet switching exchange. These are located in Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Brussels, Dublin and Luxembourg. The complete network management control will be exercised from London.

Euronet is the term used to describe the telecommunications of the network. The data bases attached to the network are collectively described as DIANE (Direct Information Access Network for Europe). There are 20 principal sources of data throughout the network embraced by DIANE. These are called hosts and between them they are offering 150 data bases on a large variety of scientific and socio-economic subjects. The number is growing every day.

The service is operational 24 hours a day and simply by dialling the appropriate telephone number of the computer which the user

wishes to access a connexion is made. Each packet carries address and control information to guide the package through the network. The speed of response of the network to the user gives him the impression that he alone has exclusive use of the facilities, although they are shared.

This sharing is reflected consequently in the tariff structure for Euronet. A user can be connected through the public switch network or by his own private circuit. In general the usage charges for Euronet are common throughout the Community although slight variations occur because of special charges incurred in accessing the network.

According to the Post Office, the emergence of packet switched public data networks around the world has been a significant development. The service is operational 24 hours a day and simply by dialling the appropriate telephone number of the computer which the user

the basis for charges. Packet switching is by comparison far less time critical... In consequence, time is no longer of such relevance as a cost factor and volume of data transmitted assumes greater importance.

Such networks may be growing quickly within the United Kingdom, controlled by private operators. If the Secretary of State for Industry agrees to the benefit of such services. Under the new Telecommunications Bill making its way through Parliament, he will be empowered to allow private ventures to operate such data communication networks for profit.

Euronet will expand. Within three years interconnection will exist between a whole range of European states. These will include Britain, Ireland, Austria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Spain and the Netherlands and Switzerland.

B.J.

## In search of a policy to help sales

The future belongs to those industries in which information technology plays a prominent role. The Prestel viewdata system and its two teletext rivals, Ceefax and Oracle, have given Britain an advantage over its international competitors and one which it must not lose.

The users of Prestel have proved to be mainly businessmen who are not as sensitive to price as ordinary consumers. That has been a disappointment to several manufacturers of television sets. The high cost of the viewdata set, they believe, is still contributing greatly to the low domestic response, and that cost cannot be reduced unless many sets are sold.

Many of the television set manufacturers and makers of the electronic adaptors for viewdata and teletext met in London last month to air their views and to try to formulate some policy which would help the sales of viewdata and teletext services.

Generally, the cost of television sets in real terms has been greatly reduced over the past decade. It is that excess which the manufacturers of household

electronic goods wish to tap - hence the developments in video and television games. Last year 1,900,000 colour television sets of all sizes were sold in the United Kingdom, of which 90,000 were for teletext and only 5,000 for viewdata.

Philips, at the same conference in London, announced that it planned trials beginning in April and lasting for one year to test the domestic market's response to Prestel. The trials will be conducted in Bournemouth, Brighton, Harrogate and Norwich.

Philips has conducted a survey to gauge consumers' response to teletext. One conclusion from that survey was that users demanded more local information. Oracle intends to include local information as part of its service starting this year. The chip manufacturers could provide the catalyst which could greatly lower the price of a viewdata or teletext television set and so make it attractive to the ordinary domestic viewer.

Although Ceefax and Oracle are free to those with the receivers, Prestel still charges the user an access fee for some frames, costing up to about 50p.

Mullard, one of the main component suppliers to the television manufacturing industry, has developed a microchip for use in Prestel sets which it says will reduce the cost of a system by about 25 per cent to 30 per cent "before the issues of test volume are taken into account". According to Mr Ivor Cohen, managing director of Mullard: "What we need now is volume. Mullard has been strong in its pressure for an expansion of the numbers of viewdata sets made, sold and installed, because without that volume we cannot recover enough costs to justify the next generation".

The three following objectives can be set, last month's conference concluded. Teletext decoders should be available in all sets, rental and retail, in time to take advantage of the next boom in replacement sets. This implies 300,000 teletext sets in 1981, 700,000 in 1982, and 1,200,000 in 1983. Fifty thousand business Prestel set/adaptor installations should be made in the next 18 months. There should be one million Prestel users by the end of 1985.

B.J.

## Prestel has given Britain a head start



Prestel, the viewdata system of British Telecom, was the first in the world and has in consequence been able to establish a demonstrable lead over its rivals from France, Canada and Japan.

The United Kingdom, West Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria are operating systems that use Prestel software, and GEC computers, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Spain and Denmark are using systems based on Prestel standards.

The French Teletel, the Canadian Telidon and the Japanese Captrains viewdata systems have detectable differences but are nevertheless able to be fierce competitors internationally as their technologies become more refined. However, the British, at least for the present, have a head start through the creation of Prestel.

This was achieved by Mr San Fedida, at the Post Office Research Centre in 1974. In 1979 he received the MacRobert gold medal awarded each year by the Council of Engineering Institutions on behalf of the MacRobert trustees in recognition of an outstanding contribution to innovation in engineering.

Mr Fedida invented a technology which gives anyone with the appropriately adapted television set access to 170,000 pages of information by dialling through a normal telephone circuit.

In Teletel and Prestel small rectangles are used to construct the letters, numbers and graphics into a "mosaic". The systems are as a consequence termed alpha-mosaic systems. Teletel, because of its original design and its versatility in shape, is known as alpha-geometric.

As expected, the Japanese are developing their system. Captrains has a far more difficult problem than its rivals since it has to be able to display the 3,000-odd characters of the Japanese language.

Prestel has been modestly

The public service was launched in September 1979 and although its expansion has been significant, only 8,000 Prestel sets have been sold in Britain to date. Many people believe that their cost has been prohibitive. A set can cost as much as £900.

However, Prestel is at the forefront of technology development and the system, although still far from being commercial, is the only fully operational one in the world today.

The French and the British systems are fairly similar. They both display ordinary alphabetical characters on a television or video display screen. Prestel uses 40 characters a line and 24 lines; the French Teletel uses 25 lines. The Canadian Telidon was originally designed as a visual aid for diagrams and later was adapted as a text writer.

British Telecom and its

interested parties are keen on Britain maintaining its marketing edge. The corporation last year launched a successful trial service in which the market response to an international Prestel service was tested in Switzerland, Australia, the United States, West Germany, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden. The service will be available to all Prestel users in the United Kingdom from next month. It is confidently expected to give British Telecom an advantage over competitors when overseas markets are sought.

Prestel has been modestly

B.J.

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The nerve centre of every Prestel\* or other viewdata system is its computer.

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That's the GEC 4000 Series again.

And to be technical for a minute - within the GEC 4000 Series processors - important internal computer functions of protection, short term scheduling, memory management, input/output handling, semaphores and interprocess communication are not (as in most other computers) performed in software. In the GEC 4000 Series these functions are controlled via a built-in hardware, real-time executive called Nucleus.

It's not hard to see why the GEC 4000 is a success story in Prestel and other viewdata systems.

To find out more contact Tony Matthews (Ext. 3799) or for Export, David Finlay (Ext. 3478) on 01-953 2030.

\*Prestel and the Prestel symbol are trade marks of the British Telecom viewdata service.

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مركز من الأصل



VIDEOTEXT



...posing man's (or woman's) best friend by British Telecom's Prestel viewdata service. Prestel, which links television set, telephone and computer, is the world's first public viewdata service.

Fireside access to sum of human knowledge

Continued from page 15

...rian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) and the newspapers. General information pages on weather, film, theatres and so on supplied by ORF while news reports come in the papers.

...currently 64 pages are available, but this will be expanded up to 200 this year. Each page will have the capacity of an extra 99 follow-up pages behind it making a potential total of about 100.

...viewdata programme will be established by the Office next month and last year: 50,000 pages will be available to 10 households.

...The French, arriving later than the Anglo-Americans, have, however, developed a rather more advanced system. Called 'Antiope' (Acquisition, Triangulation, Information, Organisation, et de Recherche - digital), it is a system of images arranged in a grid, each image containing a different picture.

...data-compression devices that it does not have to send out a signal for every single space on the screen, thus greatly speeding the transmission of individual pages. It also contains a large number of graphics which enable it to show complicated pictures.

...france are being spent on an interactive videotext experiment which will last for two years beginning in September. Three thousand people will be invited to have specially adapted television sets in their homes, in the communes of de Vaux. Next year a telephone-operated system analogous to Prestel will be launched around Rennes.

...United States. As might be expected, a great deal of experimental work is being undertaken. Some experiments are based on United Kingdom systems such as Prestel and Ceefax, others are home grown and operated largely through cable television systems.

...The largest and most powerful telephone company in the United States is AT & T, but it is restricted under federal anti-trust legislation to telecommunication activities. However they have been involved in a number of experiments including an electronic information service, arguing that they were merely offering text counterparts to recorded message services, already available over the telephone.

...In the experiment in Albany, New York, 15 standard VDTs were connected around 100 homes offering telephone directory service as well as news, sport, weather, horoscopes and advice. Horoscopes seem to be indigenous to videotext.

...Second size is AT & T's CTS which 18 months ago acquired a North American

licence for Prestel. A year ago it signed contracts with 20 major United States corporations who were expected to act as providers of information.

...Prestel has retained rights for internal communications and closed user group applications. Through a National Enterprise Board subsidiary Aragon it intends to modify and market the Prestel system.

...AT & T subsidiaries are involved in the design and building of specially adapted televisions for an experiment conducted in Miami by the Knight Ridder chain of newspapers.

...A non-profit library cataloguing information service called OCLC announced last year it plans to establish a 'Change' 2000 experiment with 20 homes in Columbus, Ohio. The data base would include library catalogues, encyclopaedia information and banking information from a local bank.

...Also in Columbus, ComputerServe is offering a videotext-like service permitting personal computer users to retrieve software from the mainframe computer over telephone lines. The Columbus Dispatch newspaper is delivering its entire editorial content to 3,000 home terminals. Arrangements are expected with several major newspapers and the AP to provide news for the ComputerServe network all over the United States.

...Antiope, the French system, is the subject of an experiment through the Los Angeles CBS station KCRW-TV, while Ceefax is the subject of similar tests through a television station in Salt Lake City, Utah.

...Cable television services are prominent in the information explosion and at least one scheme is involving the use of a communications satellite. SATCOM 1 is being used for the transmission of Cabletext, a one-way videotext system to be delivered to cable television operators all over the United States. By November last year 45 cable operators committed themselves to subscribing. The contents will be the news service of UPI and Reuters. This spring Cabletext plans to install an electronic mail system.

...Other cable operations are being launched in San Diego and Omaha by Cox Cable, but perhaps the most significant development is a two-way interactive system called Quibe, being developed jointly by Warner Communications and American Express. In the system three varieties of service are offered on 30 cable television channels. The first 10 channels rebroadcast television, the next 10 include pay television, and the last 10 are selective local channels conveying specific programming for schools, hospitals and so on. Four of the last 10 channels are narrow-cast (broadcast) permitting specifically pre-

determined viewers to have access to them.

...A variety of interactive games may be played, tests taken or opinion questionnaires filled out. The system operator is enabled to monitor the users' preferences for channel or content—this provides a powerful tool for market research and direct sales, but what does it do to the customers' privacy?

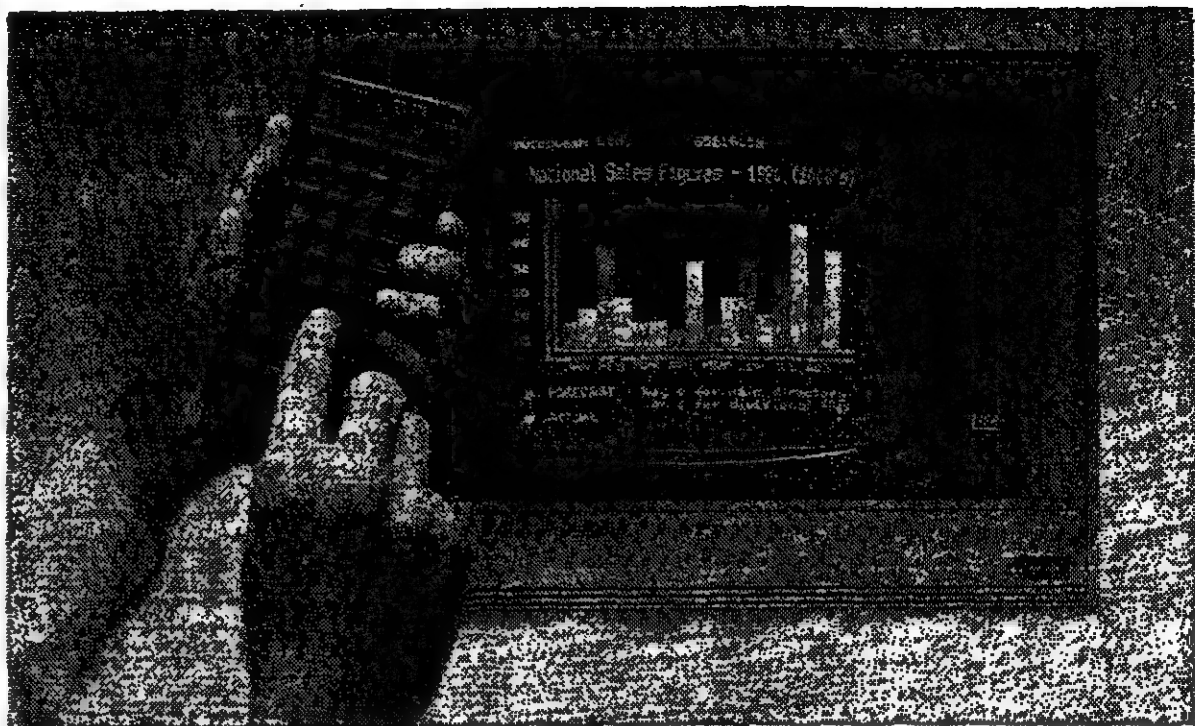
...Japan. The Character and Pattern Telephone Access Information Network System—Captains—has been developed by Japan's Telephone Corporation (NTT). It is similar to Prestel, but is planned as part of a larger development in which an all-singing, all-dancing Video Response System with moving pictures will be offered.

...Because of the nature of Japanese script a different approach to the hardware has had to be taken, the key point of which is that the character generator is located not at the receiver as in Western systems but at the system centre.

...The Japanese have an enormous appetite for information and after the experimental period the operators expect to offer a million pages growing rapidly to 100 million frames. The experimental phase is likely to last for some time, however, especially in view of the rather tortuous legal and social snarls which surround it.

Michael Hamlyn

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## Laws lag behind scientific advance

...though Britain has led the world in developing videotext systems such as Prestel, laws on the control of communications and associated property rights have lagged behind the technology. As a consequence there are now areas of uncertainty in the communications industries and to protect the public at large.

...One obvious gap is in the law of defamation. There is a distinction between a slanderous statement or representation in permanent form such as a picture, a statue, a waxwork effigy, or a written, printed, mark or sign exposed to view. A defamatory statement made in transient form is a slander and the plaintiff must show that the slander has resulted in damage to the plaintiff.

...By statute television and radio broadcasting is treated as publication in permanent form. Section 1 of the Defamation Act of 1952 states: 'For the purposes of the law of libel and slander the transmission of words by wireless telegraphy shall be treated as publication in permanent form.' The Defamation Act defines wireless telegraphy by reference to the definition given in the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949: 'wireless telegraphy means the emitting or receiving over paths which are not provided by any material substance constructed or arranged for that purpose, of electromagnetic energy not exceeding three million megacycles a second'.

...It would, therefore, appear to be the case that a defamatory statement published over BBC Ceefax or IBA Oracle would be a libel but the same statement published over Prestel or over a

private videotext network would be slander, since the signals would have been sent over wires.

...On Prestel there are special versions of *The Economist*, *Time Out*, *Family Living* and *Exchange and Mart*, all popular magazines. Many of the Prestel publications contain opinions and comments. Private Eye has not yet become a Prestel publication, though it is certain that it is and its pages would become one of the most heavily used sources, especially if it expanded its sections on the City and the courts.

...It is time, therefore, that the Government headed by Lord Diplock spoke more than 10 years ago: 'The law of defamation in this country has passed beyond the redemption of the courts and is a fit topic for the attention of the Law Commission'.

...In copyright the creative interaction between computers, publishing and telecommunications has created highly complex problems which cannot be solved by reference to statute, convention and case law alone. Consider a hypothetical case. Suppose a famous lawyer writes a manual on the law of property; a computer programmer records the book in a format accessible to being read by eye and writes software to turn the book into a database that can be interrogated. A barrister then quizzes the computer.

...It is clear neither whether the computer's answers are covered by copyright nor, if they are, who owns the right. Does it belong to the famous lawyer, the programmer, the barrister or some combination of the three? Skilled users of on-line legal information retrieval systems are capable of producing documents by interrogating the databases that read like the opinion of leading counsel.

...The hypothetical case gets far more complex when a network of computers and databases is considered. A single geostationary satellite hovering 22,000 miles above Europe could beam videotext to 38 countries, some of which give copyright protection for varying terms of years but others of which have no copyright laws at all. A computer in London could interrogate a database in Switzerland, using an American program written by a German and then transmit the output to Spain. There appears to be no absolute limit to the complexity of the interactions between computer programs and creative works recorded in videotext.

...The United States with a federal copyright law, has a clear commercial advantage in developing inter-state videotext networks. In Europe we need to analyse the problems and set about harmonizing our copyright laws to cope with trans-border videotext. It is a matter of urgency as the first of the geostationary communications satellites for use in this area will be launched in two years' time. Videotext piracy could then undermine the international publishing trade, robbing creative people of their livelihood.

...Some of the most popular games on Prestel are the games pages. Both children and adults have fun playing games with the Prestel computer. In future, using videotext, it will be possible for a computer to send the programs to play a game down a telephone line to a home computer. The family sitting round the terminal will play the game in the same manner as they would play it if it were a board game.

...However, the law contains a further barrier to the development of these videotext industries. It is possible to patent a board

game and get a monopoly for 20 years. The same game recorded in telesoftware format is not patentable under the Patent Act of 1977. A specially made computer with the game incorporated as hard-wired components might be patentable. The distinction is totally without merit: many games are more valuable when sold as software but are just as creative and inventive as their hardware equivalent.

...The problem, that hardware is patentable but that software is not, has plagued the computer industry. The identical product can be made in both hardware and software, yet because big computer companies in the 1960s successfully lobbied against patents for software, the lead which British software companies have developed in creating new products is in danger of being lost by inadequate laws. The Banks committee on patents in 1970 recommended that the question of patentability of computer programs should be kept under review by the Board of Trade. Such a review appears to be necessary today.

...In the courtroom subtle barriers exist against videotext for good reason. It will be necessary for judicial notice to be taken of the existence of legal databases before counsel will be able to rely on a videotext of a case report rather than a bound volume. The fact that the official transcript of a case recorded in a database could be altered without the knowledge of the authorities or could be wrongly made known indicates the weight that is to be attached to videotext law reports.

...Computer errors have already resulted in a man being sentenced to six months' imprisonment on the basis of the magistrates being presented with a list

of eight previous convictions which included two prison sentences, none of which had actually occurred but were the result of a computer error at Scotland Yard (*The Times*, July 15 1980). Lawyers will need to learn about computer errors, and videotext publishers will have to prove both that the security of the databases and accuracy of their publications are beyond doubt.

...Electronic mail and office automation are developing fast. Civil law countries in Europe have a different philosophical approach to the problems of copyright from that of Britain and America. The national telecommunications monopolies have different views on freedom of communications. Governments have conflicting attitudes to privacy, to advertising standards, to morality, to official secrets.

...There is a general acceptance that communications law needs revision. The difficulty comes in agreeing what the problems are. Authors, artists and composers depend upon the law of copyright for protection of their commercial rights. Citizens depend upon the law of defamation for the protection of their reputation and on the law of privacy for the protection of their peace.

...It is important that Britain takes a lead in developing a legal framework for the information age so that our technical achievements are not lost by other nations passing laws that make them more attractive to high-technology industries and so that the common-law traditions of the 19th century reflect the needs of the British legal system and the British public.

**Alistair Kelman**  
practising barrister; computer programmer; member, Council of the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee



## GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

The Philips 14" Colour Viewdata terminal won't get BBC1, BBC2 or ITV.

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**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Feb 9. Dealings End, Feb 27. \$-Contango Day, March 2. Settlement Day, March 5

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

[illegible]



Computer takes  
on New York  
markets,  
page 21

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**GARRARD**  
buy antique and  
modern jewellery  
and silver  
Garrard Ltd, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL Tel: 01-754 7000

**Stock markets**

FT Ind 486.6 down 1.8  
FT Gilt 69.33 up 0.16

**Sterling**

\$ 2.2455 down 645 points  
Index 100.4 down 2.1

**Dollar**

Index 99.5 up 1.0  
DM 2.1120 up 70 pts

**Gold**

\$ 502.50 down 55

**Money**

3-mth sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2  
3-mth Euro 5 1/4-5 1/2  
6-mth Euro 5 1/4-5 1/2

### IN BRIEF

## Jobber will keep gold trade on SE floor

Smith Brothers, the stock market's leading jobber, is decided not to take all of its lucrative trade in gold away from the market's trading floor, reversing a previous decision to move operations to a new dealing room in a City office near by.

It said that the volume of trade carried out on the telephone had increased so much that the floor could no longer cope.

Since the earlier decision, a firm has come under increasing pressure from stock-exchange and the Stock Exchange Council to maintain a presence on the floor. The decision to move was made possible by a change in the rules which allow jobbers to act in international stocks as well as domestic.

### 20m exhibition

The International Construction Exhibition which was held at Birmingham yesterday by the Duke of Kent, has upturn valued at £20m on display from 550 manufacturers, continues until February 28.

### Leigh short time

Half of the hourly-paid 5,000 workforce at the Raleigh cycle factory in Nottingham are working on a two-day week from today to avoid further redundancies.

Total jobs go, page 20

### Star order

Delta Air Lines has ordered another Lockheed TriStar for delivery in January 1983. Delta is 34 TriStars in service, with 40 more on order.

### House prices constant

Most house prices remained constant in the quarter ending last month, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

### Steel output higher

Crude steel output among non-Communist members of the International Iron and Steel Institute rose by 4.5 per cent last month to 37.47 million tonnes compared with December 1980.

### Underwear limits

Imports of underwear from the Philippines into the United Kingdom are to be restricted by the European Commission. A quota of 2.15 million pairs has been negotiated for 1981, imports last year totalled 3.12 million pairs.

### £2m wine factory

Britain's most modern wine bottling plant, owned by Sichel and Sons, comes into full production this week with an annual capacity of more than 5 million bottles. The £2.4m plant is at Paddock Wood, Kent.

### Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 945.23, up 9.14 on Wall Street last Friday. The S&P 500 index rose 12.45 to 1,239.19 while the £-SDR rate was 0.544214.

### PRICE CHANGES

#### Rises

AMEC	20p to 350p
Anglo Am Corp	15p to 150p
Permat	20p to 435p
Global Nat Res	8p to 163p
Grindlays Hold	10p to 130p

#### Falls

Atlantic Assets	5p to 225p
Beecham Grp	5p to 175p
French T	5p to 120p
Mitros	8p to 600p
Lloyds	7p to 325p

### THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.99	1.97	Norway Kr	12.50
Austria Sch	35.45	35.25	Portugal Esc	129.50
Belgium Fr	80.75	76.75	South Africa Rd	2.10
Canada \$	2.77	2.68	Spain Ptas	201.00
Denmark Kr	15.25	14.45	Sweden Kr	10.90
Finland Mkks	9.55	9.36	Switzerland Fr	4.43
France Fr	11.40	10.90	USA \$	2.32
Germany DM	4.98	4.70	Yugoslavia Dnr	84.50
Greece Dr	115.30	109.50		
Hongkong \$	12.30	11.70		
Ireland Pds	1.34	1.28		
Italy Lit	2360.00	2250.00		
Japan Yen	495.00	469.00		
Netherlands Gld	5.38	5.12		

## Duport shuts Llanelli with loss of 1,200 jobs and sells off plants to BSC

By Peter Hill

Duport, the troubled Midlands-based steel and engineering group, is to close its steelmaking operations in South Wales with the loss of 1,200 jobs and sell its associated steel interests to the British Steel Corporation.

The announcement of the decision, which will involve a cash deal of £23m, came yesterday after weeks of intensive discussion between the company's bankers, the BSC and the Government.

Workers at the doomed Llanelli plant immediately expressed anger and leaders of the labour force will travel to London for talks with Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

He gave a warning yesterday that more private sector steel companies faced closure unless the Government changed its policies.

News of the agreement came on the eve of today's parliamentary statement by Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, on the Government's plans for the steel industry. These will involve writing off £3,000m BSC capital and providing further government funds.

Sir Keith will undoubtedly refer to the Duport decision, which follows the announcement at the end of last week of a joint venture company between the BSC and GKN for rationalisation of the billet, bar, and wire rod interests of the two organisations.

Although the Llanelli steel-making plant is to be closed, with workers receiving statutory redundancy terms plus 50 per cent—Duport's retooling plant, the London works at Tipton, Staffordshire, together with other steel processing and stockholdings interests in Sheffield, are expected to feature

in the formation of a further one, and possibly two, so-called "phoenix" joint venture companies to effect a rationalisation of the engineering steel sector.

Yesterday's announcement by Duport paves the way for talks to move forward with the BSC and a group of other engineering steel producers in the private sector on this venture, although it is not expected to be concluded for some weeks.

Closure of the plant at Llanelli is a big blow to the community and will raise local unemployment to more than 15 per cent.

Over the past three years the company has invested about £35m in steelmaking capacity at Llanelli. The plant produces steel billets which are sold to other customers or are transferred to Tipton for retooling.

The plant has an annual capacity of about 500,000 tonnes, but with the present overcapacity in the engineering steel sector it has recently been operating at about one-third of capacity.

The company sank into deficit in the first half of last year, reflecting the effects of the engineering and steel strikes, and losses have mounted as the steel industry crisis began to bite.

Losses at Llanelli are understood to have been running at about £1m a month.

Dealings in the company's shares were suspended yesterday and further details of the arrangements with BSC are expected to be announced by the end of this week.

The deal will require approval by shareholders and an extraordinary general meeting is being arranged.

A spokesman for the company said that there had been "no alternative" to the closure of South Wales operations, where a second electric arc

steelmaking furnace was commissioned only 12 months ago.

There is considerable overcapacity in this area and the plant could not be included as part of the deal with BSC, he added.

It is understood that Duport will bear the cost of the Llanelli closure and the redundancies involved, with the BSC assuming responsibility for the bulk of the company's extensive overcapacity in plastics, metal framing and furniture.

Reaction to the news, which followed more than 1,200 job losses at the Sheffield private sector steel company of Firth Brown last week, was one of anger.

Mr Keith Phelps, a member of the Llanelli works council, said that the company had said only a few days ago that a decision would not be taken for several weeks.

"We have been led up the garden path. We were being led to believe there was always a good chance of Llanelli being saved, but now we are told the whole place must close," he said.

Mr Sirs, who will be seeing Sir Keith Joseph with other union leaders of the "triple alliance" formed between steelworkers, railwaymen and coal miners, said that he was horrified at the closure.

"It has happened quite simply because of the high cost of energy and because of the over-strong pound. This has resulted in a surge of imports and a loss of sales."

"The Duport plant is modern, has low manning and good productivity. Unless there are changes in government policy, I am afraid that Duport will not be the last of the closures. It may be the first of many."

## £20m loan for coal and steel areas



Mr Christopher Tugendhat (left), Lord Caldecote (centre) and Mr John MacGregor at the signing ceremony in London.

By Our Industrial Editor

Additional EEC funds of £20m aimed at promoting new businesses in areas hit by the rundown of the coal and steel industries are expected to help create 4,000 jobs.

The loan facilities were concluded at a signing ceremony in London yesterday. The latest tranche is the third "global loan" provided by the Community for reconstruction assistance under the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty, and is specifically aimed at companies requiring loans of up to £1m.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Mr John MacGregor,

parliamentary under-secretary of state for industry, said that he hoped the new facilities would help the Government to build on the first £10m loan made available 15 months ago and which had been fully taken up.

"Cover has been provided on loans for projects expected to provide at least 4,000 jobs in coal and steel closure areas and I am sure many more jobs will follow," Mr MacGregor said.

He reaffirmed the Government's view that small companies had a crucial role to play in tackling the problems created by the decline of traditional industries.

Half of the latest EEC loan is being guaranteed against exchange risks by the Department of Industry and the balance will be paid in sterling.

The money will be loaned at special low interest rates—up to 3 per cent below market rates—and will be channelled through Finance for Industry, the long-term investment institution owned by the clearing banks and the Bank of England.

Yesterday's signing ceremony was attended by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Britain's senior EEC Commissioner, who said that the loan facility demonstrated the advantages which could be gained from the EEC.

## Ferries chief unworried by monopolies call

By David Hewson

Mr Keith Wickenden, European Ferries chairman, said yesterday that he would welcome an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the company's bid for British Rail's Sealink ferry subsidiary.

European Ferries is to press for an investigation to be carried out before the Government's Transport Bill becomes law this summer.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, recom-

mended last week that the Monopolies Commission should look at the proposed merger, which would give the combined company an overall market share of 61 per cent on cross-channel routes.

The Government is understood to favour the merger as part of its policy for the "privatisation" of British Rail, and it is not yet known when Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, will decide whether to accept the Office of Fair Trading's recommendation.

Mr Wickenden said that he welcomed the OFT's recommendation and hoped that the Government would accept it in advance of European Ferries' bid. In a pointed aside, Mr Wickenden said that he would welcome an investigation of the possible merger of BR's Seaport hovercraft company with Hoverspeed.

Ferries only decided to bid for Sealink when it became apparent that the merger of Seaport and Hoverspeed was being contemplated.

## \$800m move for 20th Century Fox

From Ivor Davis  
Los Angeles, Feb 23

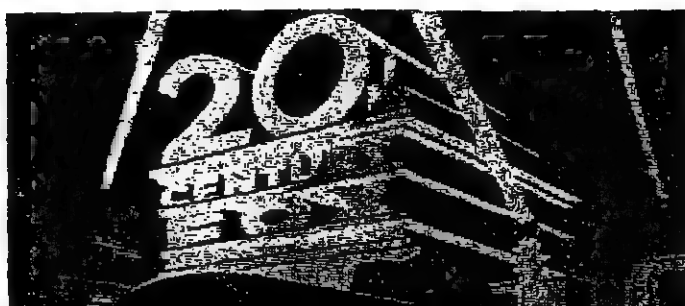
Mr Marvin Davis, a Denver oil millionaire, has offered to buy Twentieth Century Fox film corporation in a deal that would be worth nearly \$800m (£357m) or \$70 a share to Fox stockholders.

The film studio would only say that directors will consider it fully at a meeting on Friday.

The offer came after months of rumour in Hollywood of takeover moves and strife among the hierarchy running the film factory. Only last month an effort by Fox's own management to make the company private was dropped.

In Hollywood, Mr Davis is virtually unknown although in the past he has made unsuccessful efforts to acquire baseball teams and the Denver Post newspaper. He has extensive property holdings in Denver, which include high-rise hotels and office buildings.

It is believed that Mr Davis is in a good position to complete the deal. Last month he announced that he was selling his family-owned Davis Oil Company's oil and gas hold-



20th Century Fox Corporation emblem—familiar to millions the world over.

ings to Mr Hiram Walker's Consumer Home of Toronto for about \$600m. The funds from that deal could provide most of the cash.

According to Fox, Mr Davis and his family plan to form a new company that would merge with Fox after the entertainment and leisure company had first distributed to shareholders its stock in a subsidiary that controls three television stations.

It is estimated that the distribution will be worth about \$10 per Fox share. After that, Mr Davis would pay \$60 in

cash for each share of Fox Common.

Fox has about 10.5 million common shares outstanding plus 636,000 preferred shares that are convertible into another 830,000 common. Thus, the proposed deal would require Mr Davis to pay about \$680m in cash, with Fox holders receiving the equivalent of about \$115m in the spin-off of the television stations, making the total purchase price about \$800m.

"It's a hard offer to refuse," a Fox official said. The proposal had the support of the New York-based Chris Craft indus-

tries, the largest Fox share holder, with 22 per cent of common stock.

Mr Herbert J. Siegel, Chris Craft chairman, said his board considered Mr Davis's offer to be fair and equitable and that he was "sure the Fox board will give this offer the same fair consideration it was prepared to give to a previous proposal by Fox management to acquire Fox for themselves."

Fox said Mr Davis had no plans to change the corporate structure of the studio's management or the Los Angeles location of its headquarters.

The offer follows a year of turmoil for the film factory which began in 1979 when Mr Alan Ladd junior and other executives left the company in a much publicized dispute.

Since then there have been reports of takeover offers, including one that failed last autumn and more recently published reports of a serious rift between Mr Dennis Stansfield, Fox's chairman and Mr Alan Hirschfeld, the man he hired to be vice-chairman and chief operating officer.

The shares of the film studios rose 84 to close at 61c and Chris Craft shares improved 21 to 39 1/2.

## Metro sales lead upturn as BL's market share rises to 22 per cent

By Edward Townsend

BL is continuing slowly to recapture some of its lost share of the Japanese car market, and by the middle of this month had taken about 22.4 per cent of sales.

The state-owned company's executives must be reasonably pleased with the February performance, which reflects in particular the success of the Metro and has occurred at a time when the Japanese imports are once again attacking the market.

Industry estimates are that with about 10 days of the month to go, Japanese cars took 9.3 per cent of sales and 11.1 per cent for the year to date. Datsun, the largest importer of Japanese cars which sold a mere 74 vehicles in December, has captured more than 6 per cent this month.

The market share taken by all imported cars in the first two months is just over 52 per cent compared with a total for 1980 of 56.7 per cent.

Ford, the market leader, has taken about 31 per cent of February sales, which total

about 93,500, compared with 145,000 for the whole of February, 1980.

BL's share for the year to date is 19.7 per cent, slightly under its 1981 target of 20 per cent. Most manufacturers agree that the United Kingdom market this year will be 1.42 million against last year's 1.51 million.

BL, which has been promised a further £90m of state aid in the next two years, is basing much of its hopes for 1981 on the continuing success of the Metro, facelifted Mini and Princess models and the new Triumph Acclaim, which is being produced in collaboration with Honda of Japan and due to be launched in the United Kingdom in October.

Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director of BL's car division, said yesterday that serious collaboration with another car maker was necessary if the company was to realize its ambition of increasing sales by 30 per cent by 1986 to between 700,000 and 800,000 cars a year.

In an interview with *The*

*Figaro* in Paris, Mr Horrocks said that any new agreement would not exclude existing technical cooperation deals with other companies.

The company was "very happy" with the deal with Honda and was in discussions with the Japanese in the hope of broadening the scope of the collaboration.

Meanwhile, latest figures from the Department of Transport show that total new vehicle registrations in January were 176,676, a drop of 15 per cent on a year earlier and the lowest January figure for five years.

Registrations of new cars and vans were 129,468, a drop of 11 per cent, while sales of goods vehicles fell by 37 per cent.

The cuts in local authority spending are reflected in the numbers of public transport vehicles registered last month. These declined to 651, which was a fall of 29 per cent on a year earlier.

Japanese record, page 20

## Rush for share of new Datsun plant

By Edward Townsend

Hundreds of companies are pressing to become suppliers to Nissan, Japan's second largest motor group, and many local authorities are competing for the company's £300m car manufacturing plant which is to be built in Britain.

According to a senior executive of Datsun UK, the British-owned sales outlet for Nissan, the plant will be built in a "half a county" for the plant, to small engineering companies wishing to tender for orders for nuts and bolts.

Although full production of cars is not expected at the new plant until 1986, one United Kingdom component supplier has already submitted price quotations for a list of eight parts and specified the materials from which they could be produced.

The prize for the successful applicants will be considerable. The area which Nissan finally selects for the 800-acre development will win about 4,500 new jobs.

Nissan has promised that, when in full production, the operation will be buying £230m of British components a year, helping to safeguard 30,000 jobs in the component supply industry.

Construction work alone is expected to employ 1,000 people.

Competition for the location is intense. Nissan is conducting a feasibility study, expected to take another three months, which will include site selection, but already the firm's favourites are South Wales or the North-east.

The Department of Industry, which has told the Japanese company it could qualify for grants and special assistance covering up to half of the total capital cost, is referring all potential bidders for the spin-off business to Nissan in Tokyo.

Datsun UK is pleading with people to deal directly with Nissan. Yesterday alone, the British company received inquiries from two engineering companies and three district councils.

The company said that local authorities as far apart as Cornwall and Deeside in North-East Scotland had shown an interest.

"Some are totally unsuitable, but at least they are having a go," a spokesman said.

Apart from a desire to fill empty order books, companies bidding for the Nissan patronage are also aware of the good production records achieved by Japanese industry in the United Kingdom and that the business could be long term and lucrative.

The list at present includes every major construction company in the country, according to Datsun, as well as architects, small builders, steel works, machine tool makers, and suppliers of air conditioning and catering equipment.

One of two union branch officials have made tentative approaches, saying their members would welcome the Japanese and even universities have written to offer language school and engineering training services.

## Gas production stopped

Brussels, Feb 23.—Phillips

Petroleum has stopped production at a recently-opened chemical plant in northern Belgium after allegations that vapours were leaking. A company spokesman said the factory, which opened two weeks ago, stopped producing mercaptan gas last week after the government said it believed the plant

was responsible for producing a foul-smelling gas cloud.

"We firmly believe there has been no leak from this plant, but we are pursuing investigations and have agreed not to resume production until the position has been clarified," the spokesman said. Mercaptan is used to give a smell to otherwise odourless natural gas.

## Brunner Investment Trust Limited

"It is your Board's present policy, firstly, to continue to seek opportunities in the more dynamic sectors of the important United States and Japanese economies; secondly, to continue to give emphasis to the energy sector which at the year end accounted for about a quarter of the Trust's total portfolio."

T. B. H. Brunner, Chairman

### PERFORMANCE

(To year ended 30th November 1980)

Brunner	1980	1979	1978
Net Asset Value	1.19	1.14	1.11
FT-Actuaries	119	114	111
All-Share Index	119	114	111
Brunner	1980	1979	1978
Gross Dividend	1.19	1.14	1.11
Retail Price Index	119	114	111

Managers:

Kleinwort Benson  
40, Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF  
on Friday 20th March 1981 at 12.15pm

## £8m system will speed up international contact for subscribers

## Reuters links the banks for a bit of fast dealing

Reuters, the international news and business information service, has launched a computerized money-dealing system which allows banks in different countries to deal with each other in seconds.

The service, which has taken five years of research, cost £8m to develop. This is the largest investment Reuters has undertaken since it was founded by Mr Paul Julius Reuter in 1851—the year of the Great Exhibition.

The new service allows banks active on the foreign exchange and money markets to make contact and communicate with video screens linked through a central computer system. So far 150 banks in Western

Europe and North America have become subscribers, paying an average of £1,500 a month.

It also incorporates the Reuter Monitor Money Rates information service, which was introduced in 1973 and gives subscribers a wide range of up-to-date information on foreign exchange and money market rates quoted directly by banks and institutions. Reuter Monitor has more than 4,000 subscribers in 45 countries.

The same video terminal on which banks can now deal by feeding in information through a keyboard also gives market information on another section of the screen.

A third area of the screen is reserved for important market news.

Speed is the main advantage of the new dealing system. At present banks deal either through a broker or direct with each other. The service is not designed to draw business away from brokers but to speed up and improve direct inter-bank dealing, which has traditionally meant placing telephone or telex calls.

International telex calls can take 15 or 20 seconds to connect but with the Reuters system banks can make contact in about four seconds.

The system also operates in "real time" which means that once contact has been made





## January record for Japanese car output

Japanese vehicle production fell 7.8 per cent in January to 851,968 from 923,631 in December, but rose 9.2 per cent from 780,015 a year earlier.

This is the highest January production figure helped by increased domestic deliveries and active exports. Export figures for January are expected to be announced later this week, possibly showing a rise of about 30 per cent from January 1980.

Meanwhile, West European and Japanese motor industry leaders are likely to meet in Paris on April 22 and 23 for talks on rising Japanese car exports to Europe. In another move, the Japanese trade minister is to visit Washington to discuss Japanese car exports to the United States in preparation for Mr. Zenko Suzuki, Prime Minister, meeting with President Reagan in May.

## Manila 'over optimistic'

The Philippines has over-estimated the amount of energy it can produce in the 1980s, despite the country's "excellent" hydroelectric, geothermal, coal and some oil resources, according to a survey by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The World Bank is to discuss a \$9.5m (£4.1m) programme with the national energy minister in March.

## German car sales up

West German vehicle registrations in January rose 20.3 per cent over December to 187,180, but were 14.4 per cent below a year ago. Registrations of new cars rose 20.9 per cent to 168,070 in December but were 15.5 per cent down from a year ago.

## EEC jobless rise

Unemployment in the European Community in January reached 8.4 million, or 7.7 per cent of the workforce, increasing by a record 500,000 workers in one month.

## Causeway talks

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are negotiating with eight groups of companies over bids to build a \$1,000m (£430m) 15-mile causeway between the two countries. The contract will likely be awarded in April.

## Saudi SDR deposit

Saudi Arabia is believed to have opened deposits denominated in special drawing rights equivalent to \$10m (£4.3m) each at the Bank of Tokyo and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank.

## Dutch deficit

Dutch visible trade showed a non-seasonally adjusted provisional deficit of 1,180m guilders (£225m) in December, compared to a downwards revised shortfall of 589m guilders in November and a 1,600m guilders deficit in December, 1979.

## Japan oil imports fall

Japan's crude oil imports fell 9.4 per cent in January to 129.40 million barrels from 143.89 million in December, and down 7.4 per cent from 139.74 million a year earlier.

## Belgian prices up

The Belgian wholesale price index for January rose 1 per cent from December and 5.8 per cent from January 1980 to 889.4 (1936-39 base equals 100).

## South Africa surplus

South Africa's trade surplus widened to 363.5m rand (£172.8m) in January from 195.6m rand in December but narrowed from 710.8m rand in January 1980.

## Danish price rise

Danish wholesale prices rose 1.4 per cent in January from December.

Cabinet member sees trade as weapon for securing foreign policy

## Mr Reagan out to promote exports

The Reagan administration plans to cut taxes for Americans working abroad and eliminate some of the regulations concerning foreign bribery by companies as part of a new export policy.

At the same time, according to Mr William Brock, the trade representative, the Reagan administration will promote more consistent trade policies, clearly defining the role of trade in securing foreign policy aims and linking trade, defence and general foreign policy issues to a far greater degree than before.

Mr Brock, who is the cabinet member in charge of trade policy formulation, said that export promotion was "absolutely crucial" to the revitalization of the American economy. He said it would be wrong to see the newly proposed budget cuts for the Export-Import Bank as indicating lack of interest by the President in export growth.

"I would caution our friends overseas from misreading that message. Our budget programme is very real and every programme is being cut."

"It is a compelling urgency that we establish a much more effective export policy," the trade official said. A whole series of separate initiatives will be taken.

The administration is giving strong support to legislation to limit the creation of special trading companies with limited participation which will promote exports. To provide Americans with real incentives to secure export deals, the Administration

wants to "significantly reduce taxes on Americans abroad."

Regulatory disincentives to exports will be cleared away, such as tight domestic rules governing the sale of hazardous substances. In this context, the corrupt practices laws of the United States will be overhauled, with some parts eliminated and other parts simplified. The United States also opposes the Arab boycott list of supplies to Israel, and Mr Brock said business would be helped if the law dealing with this issue was changed.

On the aims of the trade office he said: "The top priority would be removing export disincentives."

"My objective is to work towards a continuing strengthening of the process by which we work together (the United States, Japan and the EEC)... We need to do more in areas such as safeguards treaties, consideration of the new problems arising in the services field and in investments. We must develop mechanisms that allow us to work consistently to secure expansion of trade."

He opposed protectionism but "this is a political world" and at times protectionist actions had to be taken. The administration was reviewing arrangements for steel imports, for example.

"There are certain basic industries that we will not do without... The nation has a unique argument for securing its steel industry and that is that if we are going

to carry the burden of defending the free world we must have the capacity to sustain that effort and that means we must pay a price. We are going to have a strong steel industry in this country."

Mr Brock said he was fully aware and "most sympathetic" of Britain's fibre import problems. The administration had already taken steps to help by decontrolling domestic oil prices. "We intend to work in the direction of decontrolling natural gas and we hope to take other steps that might prove to have greater short-term benefits."

He admitted that the United States negotiating hand might be seen as being weakened, in convincing the Europeans to reduce export subsidies, because of the budget cuts for the Export-Import Bank. But he said he would not have any hesitation about linking United States demands on this front to other issues. "Linkage is going to be fundamental—it must be between trade and foreign policy," he said.

Mr Brock left the distinct impression that forcing the export subsidy issue was not a key administration priority.

He agreed that past trade policies had at times been inconsistent and a prime task for him was to ensure that America had strong, consistent and logical trade policies relating directly to all other aspects of international policy.

Frank Vogl  
in Washington

## New digital control for pilotless aircraft

A small, pilotless aeroplane, believed to be the first remotely piloted vehicle in the world to have digital on-board control, has made its first flight from the Royal Aircraft Establishment's airfield at Thurleigh, Bedford.

Known as the Machan, it had been designed and built for Marconi Avionics by Cranfield Institute of Technology as part of a Ministry of Defence programme of research into pilotless aircraft.

It takes its name from a tree-top tiger-sporting platform used by hunters in India. In its present form it is a research vehicle able to carry a range of payloads: in operational use such a machine could carry a television camera, other surveillance equipment or armament, or could be used for civil tasks such as crop-spraying and traffic and coastguard surveillance.

Machan is 7ft long, has a 12ft wingspan, and can carry up to 33lb of equipment. Its 18 hp two-stroke engine drives a tail-mounted propeller. It can cruise for two hours at 70 miles an hour and has a top speed of more than 100 miles an hour.

Launched by compressed air, the Machan would initially be controlled remotely by a pilot on the ground, in similar fashion to radio-controlled model aircraft. In later stages of the flight the aircraft would be guided by its digital micro-computer, which would have been programmed to fly whatever mission was required.

The micro-computer also receives inputs from a three-axis gyro and from height and speed sensors, and passes signals to the aerodynamic surfaces which control the flight.

At Cranfield, Professor John Shepherd, head of the School of Electronic System Design, has overall charge of the project and is responsible for the flight computer and the control system.

The airframe was designed by Professor Denis Howe, of the College of Aeronautics at Cranfield; it features an aluminium fuselage, diamond-shaped in cross-section; and a glass-fibre skinned wing. This design makes for simple manufacture and may also reduce the aircraft's vulnerability to radar detection.

## Anti-fire fuel additive

A fuel additive developed by ICI Paints Division in Britain



has the potential to reduce greatly the chances of fire in aircraft. The additive, known as FM-9, is a high molecular weight polymer whose molecules interact with each other to inhibit the break-up of liquid aviation fuel into an ignitable mist. It is the result of a 14-year research effort by ICI Paints and the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough.

Evaluation of the additive by the FAA has been under way for almost three years under a memorandum of understanding between the British and United States Governments.

At a recent conference in Atlantic City, Mr John Mossell, of ICI, said: "The anti-misting concept is simple and straightforward — the objective is to reduce misting under stress conditions, thereby avoiding the mist environment that results in fires that is characteristic after many crashes."

Development efforts were now being directed towards further refining the agent, he said, to make it practical for high-volume application.

## Microprocessor for defence

A microprocessor developed for defence use has been adopted by Ultra Electronic Controls for the control of diesel engines

## 220 jobs to go as Tootal closes another factory

By R. W. Shakespeare

Tootal has announced another closure in its textile operations in the North-West of England. It means the loss of another 220 jobs on top of the 4,000 that the company has shed during the past year.

The latest casualty is the company's Tootal Haver works at Preston, Lancashire, which will be closed in June. Most of the jobs lost are of women machinists, with some management and administrative staff.

The Preston factory has been specializing in shirts and blouses for the children's market.

In a statement yesterday, Tootal said there had been a marked decline in demand for British-produced clothing, and the market had become depressed in the current recession.

Discussions about the closure are taking place with representatives of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers to which most employees belong.

## Campaign brings Rugby 300 jobs

A campaign to attract industry to Rugby near Coventry has resulted in new developments being planned in the town by Bays Charrington and Showers (UK) which will create 300 jobs (Edward Townsend writes).

Rugby's self-help enterprise operation was started three years ago by the borough council, the local chamber of commerce and trades council. The organization's commercial development committee said yesterday, despite strong competition for new industry from the Government-supported areas of the United Kingdom, Rugby's

## Technology News

It would replace a system of magnetic amplifier speed and temperature limiters.

The diesel control unit is on trial with a number of engine manufacturers. Results so far have confirmed that the microprocessor-based control system will reduce emissions level and improve specific fuel consumption. In diesel engines it could be used in trucks, military and off-highway vehicles.

## Developments in viewdata

Two significant developments in European viewdata systems are to be implemented by Aeron International, the National Enterprise Board subsidiary. One is for the German national viewdata system (Bildschirmtext); the other for the European Economic Community.

Aeron has already provided for the German system a method of connecting private host processors to the national viewdata network. Known as Gateway, this was designed by Aeron, developed under contract by Systems Designers and is due to be introduced to the Post Office's Prestel network in Britain in 1982.

Now Aeron are to introduce a comprehensive message service in addition for the German system. These new features are to be designed and implemented by Aeron and are expected to be in operation next autumn.

Under contract to the European Commission, Aeron is to implement a viewdata link to Euronet, the Community's packet-switched data network. This will enable data held on Euronet to be retrieved on European viewdata receivers (modified television sets).

Previously Euronet data had been accessible only via conventional computer terminals.

Kenneth Owen

## £60m telephone deal for Glasgow

A £60m order has been awarded to TMC, a division of Philips Business Systems, by British Telecom which will create 100 new jobs in the Glasgow area by the end of the year (Bill Johnstone writes).

The order, for 16,000 small electronic telephone systems, will be produced at the company's Bellshill factory which employs 150 people.

TMC conducted feasibility studies for the new electronic systems in 1977, was awarded a development contract in 1978, and was given an order worth £10m by British Telecom the following year.

That order will be completed by the middle of this year, and the new contract will last until 1983.

The electronic system, called the "Herald", is a small unit capable of providing up to 12 exchange lines and 40 extensions.

The units will be rented or sold by British Telecom to small business users. According to the manufacturer, the business telephone system offers a unique range of programmable facilities. Considerable overseas interest has been shown in the system, and it is expected that, before the end of the year, a number of foreign contracts could be negotiated.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The case for more nuclear power

From Professor J. H. Franklin  
Sir, in your editorial of February 19 you say quite correctly that it would be better to over-order nuclear power stations than to under-order. Our present economic problems may make it difficult for the Central Electricity Generating Board or the Government to commit themselves to a specific building programme for very far ahead, but the main case for increasing our number of nuclear stations now is almost independent of present estimates of the amount of electric power we shall need in 20 years time.

The first reason for this is that such estimates may quite easily be wrong by a factor of two, since they take no account of changes in oil prices or in energy-consuming technologies. To consider a change of policy because demand estimates have changed by 7 per cent is absurd. There is no possible way of estimating the rate at which the future cost of oil will increase. The oil producers (other than ourselves) have clearly guessed that oil is being used up at a serious rate, and in earlier times were planning for the day when it would run out. A simple strategy, which they may well follow, is to put the price up so fast that it does not run out. A simple plan would be to raise the price sufficiently to halve demand each time the reserves were halved. Oil would not then run out for a long time, and we have no alternatives, the price would have to go up many

times to reduce demand by a factor of two. Indeed, the only way of limiting the price rise would be to divert large quantities of coal to the production of liquid fuels. More than half of current coal production in the western world would be needed to replace what the total oil used. It is likely of course that the oil producers will limit their demands, but it would encourage them to do so if 90 per cent instead of 15 per cent of our electricity came from nuclear power.

It is equally difficult to tell at what point the rise in petrol and fuel oil prices will make electric transport seriously more attractive. Few private motorists would want to use the sodium-sulphur battery, owing to the need for a warming-up time, but this would not matter to buses or later to heavy lorries; between them these alone could use most of the electricity from ten new power stations. Are the opponents of nuclear power able to guarantee that we shall have no important number of electrically powered vehicles in the next twenty years?

I certainly hope for a contribution from wind and wave, though I am unlikely to see them. Britain will ever be able to afford the space for the fifty square miles or so of solar panels needed to replace one big coal or nuclear power station. It will be very hard to know how to use wind and wave on a large scale, and every so often we

do get a week or so of calm seas, and still weather. Ten or 15 per cent of our eggs are all we dare put in this basket.

Finally, any time now we can expect the doom-watchers to switch from radiation to the less calculable but potentially far greater risk from carbon dioxide. Ralph Nader's successful blocking of seven nuclear stations, and the subsequent practical moratorium on such stations in the USA has had the result of increasing by at least 100 million tons per year the amount of carbon dioxide exhaled by fossil fuel stations in the USA. It is expected that the total atmospheric content will double in 70 years; each year a little less of the energy we receive from the sun is radiated into space. It is much too early to blame recent extremes of weather on this, but the extra energy is going somewhere—in evaporation from the ocean and simple warming of the air. The weather must already have more energy available for wind and storms than if we had not been burning fossil fuels (and tropical forests) for the last two hundred years. It may be a long time before this matters very much. But sometime it will, and I would like my grandchildren to have the option open to cut back drastically the use of fossil fuels, if they have to, before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. FRANKLIN,  
46 Vernon Road,  
Birmingham, B16 9SH.

## Wage rounds and calendars

From Mr Douglas Vaughan  
Sir, in his letter of February 11, which dealt with an aspect of my article on the Phillips Curve (February 9), Mr Trinder made a constructive and useful point. The use of wage-round, rather than calendar, years does not make a difference to the relationship, since this was estimated from quarterly data. It does, however, make a difference to the errors of estimation when quarterly estimates are aggregated into calendar or wage-round years. When the differences between actual earnings and those estimated from the 1975 Phillips Curve are averaged (with signs ignored), the average error for calendar years is 1.5 percentage points compared with 2.4 for wage-rounds. The major error in the calendar year series is in 1977, whereas those in the wage-round series were in 1979/80 when incomes policy had been removed and, to a

lesser extent, in 1975/76, when incomes policy had just been reimposed and had little effect during 1974/75.

Incidentally, the same effect of using wage-rounds rather than calendar years can be observed when estimating earnings from prior changes in M3. It is interesting to note that, when a dummy variable for incomes policy is used, the average estimating error for 1975/76 to 1979/80 falls to 0.4 percentage points. Although changes in the money supply are the predominant influence on earnings, the effect of introducing incomes policy might suggest a tactical, rather than a strategic, modification to Government economic policy.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS VAUGHAN,  
Sub-Dean,  
The City University Business School,  
Lincen, Denny House,  
23 Goswell Road,  
London, EC1M 7BB,  
February 16.

## Comfort and Concorde

From Mr Euan Lloyd

Sir, During a visit to New York last week I persuaded a group of eighteen hesitant American businessmen to fly Concorde to attend a trade convention.

Moments before calling British Airways to proudly confirm their reservations one member of the party asked for my assurance that pipe smoking was forbidden on British aircraft as it is on all American flights. Several fellow travellers shared his concern but the charming agent could not be absolutely sure, adding that she thought it was up to the discretion of the crew.

The Americans promptly withdrew their interest with apologetic apologies to a newly found British loyalist and switched to Pan Am, despite the inconvenience of an overnight flight in place of Concorde's arrival in time for bed.

As a sufferer myself (I literally get sick from pipe smoke) I retained my own booking with a silent prayer. It was not to be for when I boarded Concorde flight 192 at Kennedy Airport there, out of only 25 passengers in time for bed, were two concerned Britons, waiting anxiously to light up. And light up they did. It cost my favourite airline roughly £30,000. My stomach is still over the Atlantic, hovering at 59,000 feet.

Yours faithfully,  
EUAN LLOYD,  
Twickenham Film Studios,  
Middlesex,  
February 17.

## Promoting energy conservation

From Mr W. B. Pascall

Sir, We welcome the news (February 9) that the Government is planning to set up an agency to promote energy conservation as a vital element of energy policy. Any robust strategy must be based on a thorough understanding of energy efficient design and use of buildings as this is the largest single sector of the nation's fuel bill (56 per cent).

The architectural profession has been pursuing a programme of education and promotion of energy conservation in conjunction with the Chartered Institution of Building Services, the Energy Supply and Building Materials Industries and the Departments of Energy and Environment. Any new initiative should encourage this existing organizational cooperation between the Government, industry, the professions and, increasingly, the financial institutions to improve the knowledge of achievable results and the local marketing of energy conservation opportunities.

The essential job of any future National Energy Conservation Agency would thus be to clarify policy objectives and to enable the promotion of investment to permit the effective management of the national energy and building resources.

WILL PASCALL,  
Energy Co-ordinator,  
Royal Institute of British Architects,  
66 Portland Place,  
London, W1N 4AD,  
February 13.

## Currency difficulties at banks

From Mr Graham W. Benbow

Sir, In response to Mr Ellis' letter published today (February 19) regarding the currency exchange, I would like to mention that, being an employee of one of the major clearing banks and dealing with foreign currency transactions, the purpose of obtaining a customer's name and address is that of precaution and not identification.

It is not unknown for bank cashiers to make mistakes in exchanging foreign currencies, for example, using the wrong exchange rate, pushing the wrong button on the calculator, or even issuing the wrong number of notes. These errors unfortunately, are not always identified at the time the transaction took place, but when the bank is closed and the till being balanced, speaking from experience I have been able to rectify mistakes by using the information requested—customer's name and address.

Ever since I've been dealing with currency exchange transactions I have never requested proof of identification, because as Mr Ellis pointed out "cash is cash", and where it comes from, whether it be Italian lira or Nigerian naira, it is not my concern. However, I will always request the customer's name and address for the above purpose.

I do, however, sympathize with Mr Ellis for the banks' apparent inability to give him a satisfactory explanation, and the delay he was put to while the cashier checked the exchange control regulations with the assistant manager.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM W. BENBOW,  
15 Durham Close,  
West Wimbledon, SW20,  
February 19.

address for the above purpose.

I do, however, sympathize with Mr Ellis for the banks' apparent inability to give him a satisfactory explanation, and the delay he was put to while the cashier checked the exchange control regulations with the assistant manager.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM W. BENBOW,  
15 Durham Close,  
West Wimbledon, SW20,  
February 19.

From Mr J. M. H. Whiteley  
Sir, I can assure Mr Aidan Ellis (Letters, February 19) that his frustrated attempts to exchange a 100 franc note into sterling is by no means an isolated instance of bank staff being unwilling to handle cash.

I recently met with the same resistance when I was obliged, at very short notice, to send a draft in Deutsche mark to Germany by post. The sum involved was a bare £17 equivalent and I thought that, with at least £20 cash in my pocket, I would have no difficulty in obtaining such a draft for cash over the counter.

Being City-based, I assumed that I was well placed for this operation and, as a Lloyds customer, I confidently called in at the nearest branch. Yes, I

could have the draft, but not for three days. Why? Because my application had to be forwarded to Birmingham!

I next went to Lloyds City Office who were very sorry that, even against cash, no draft could be issued as I was not a bank's customer. I subsequently went to Barclays International where my request was turned down on the grounds that I was not a Barclays customer. On both occasions I was asked to identify myself before the evident horror of my non-customer status was discovered.

Like Mr Ellis, I am completely bemused as to why a cash transaction involving no question of indemnification or risk to the banks should be so fraught with complications. Business is business, and even my offer to pay an above-average rate of commission for this small but urgent service failed to provoke any interest. One can but sadly conclude that our illustrious banking system has, in certain matters, not yet fully come to terms with the abolition of exchange control.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. H. WHITELEY,  
6 Donovan Court,  
Drayton Gardens,  
London, SW10 9GS,  
February 19.

## Marsh & McLennan

### Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

(Incorporated under the laws of Delaware, United States of America)

**Offer to holders of 15 or fewer shares of Common Stock**

**Election to receive dividends in sterling**

Marsh & McLennan is offering to acquire the interests of holders of 15 or fewer shares of Common Stock as at 13th February, 1981. The offer will remain open until 31st March, 1981.

The shares will be purchased without the deduction of stock exchange or dealing costs, at a price which will be the average of the closing sale prices on the Composite Tape in the United States for the three business days ending 31st March, 1981. Holders resident in the

United Kingdom will receive the proceeds of sale in sterling.

Marsh & McLennan is also offering its United Kingdom registered shareholders the opportunity to elect to receive dividends in sterling.

Documents have been despatched to the relevant registered holders.

Holders who have registered their holdings in marking names or nominee names, and who wish to avail themselves of the offer or of the opportunity to receive dividends in sterling directly from Marsh & McLennan, should obtain the appropriate documents from the relevant marking name or nominee name or should contact K. M. Hall, The Bowring Building, Truro, Cornwall, EC3 0T-283 3100. Ext. 519.

This advertisement does not of itself constitute an offer. It has been issued by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

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HL EDITOR  
nuclear power

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Towards a foreign exchange policy

and reports that the Government may be thinking in terms of a three per cent MLR, from 14 to 11 per cent, on 10 were the inevitable talking point today.

Money market interest rates duly fell, with the three-month interbank rate falling below the 13 per cent level to 12 per cent. Short and medium gilts also fell, rather than ecstatic, day with a stretching to 2 of a point. More going, were the performances of sterling long gilts.

Officially the government has no foreign exchange policy. Covertly (and perhaps a bit too before much longer) it appears to be moving towards one.

That context 2 per cent of sterling today on the back of interest speculation suggestions from EEC Budget Committee. Mr Christopher Tugendhat, that the UK should reconsider joining EMS, but at a lower exchange rate, was a fair start. Yesterday's fall means sterling is now almost 4 per cent off its level earlier in the month.

A big unknown, of course, is at what ministers consider they may have a malleable trade-off between improved competitiveness and higher import costs. A point is whether they can in fact have a controlled devaluation in such markets as we have at present.

Finally, the long-end of the gilt market, steadily still overhung by the large 10 of 1999 tap stock still outstanding, showing no enthusiasm yesterday. Once used, a steeper yield curve need not, of course, be a problem for the authorities. The age from the market at the moment, is it really more serious; it is simply that the week's government retreat in the face of miners had better not be a sign of things to come.

and Hoover hopes that one day it will turn its sky-high stocks into cash. Meanwhile, it is working three weeks out of four, and is heading for a further loss in the first six months of this year as a whole does.

Hoover plan to get back into the black. It is a measure of its hope that it is confident enough to pay a halved dividend.

Flat consumer demand and severe price competition have been the major bugbears. Official figures show that imports have 48 per cent of the vacuum cleaner market and 42 per cent of the automatic washing machine business.

About washers from Italy and Spain the group can, it would seem, do little. It hopes



Mr Merle Rawson, chairman of Hoover Limited.

that the EEC will eventually do something about cleaners from Eastern Europe.

The investment hope is that Hoover of Ohio will buy out the United Kingdom minority but it has little incentive to do so at present. The "A" shares shed 4p to 123p yesterday, upset by the group's failure to make money in 1980's final quarter, which should have been its busiest.

Hoover has shed 2,000 workers in two years and it is obviously too early to say that a further contraction is out of the question. But it is a fair bet that interest charges will fall this year (£2m last year) and that the pound will soften against other currencies. For the moment the 3.6 per cent yield is unattractive.

### Dupont Cost of the crisis

So Dupont has survived—the skin of its teeth it seems and not without a measure of goodwill from among others the Bank of England, the Midland Bank and, by all accounts, Sir Keith Joseph.

Terms of the deal under which Dupont will withdraw from steelmaking and re-rolling are complex, secret until later this week and painful in that it will have to finance, at a cost of around £10m, the closure of its South Wales steelmaking operation which, unlike the West Midlands and Sheffield businesses, will not be included in the sale to British Steel Corporation.

The net effect is that Dupont in return for the steel businesses going to the BSC, whose losses had threatened the whole group, will off-load bank debt of some £23m to the BSC and may have some participation in the Phoenix programme. Thus, the cash benefit to Dupont is of the order of £12m-£13m after the South Wales terminal costs, thought of course it risks itself of steel losses which could be running as high as £5m annually.

All this will leave Dupont, but still leave it with huge problems. Trading in its remaining businesses—plastics, metal forming and furniture—is mixed, and, while bank borrowings will benefit from the BSC deal, they remain high: the £27m of borrowings at the interim stage last October must have risen sharply.

Dupont is going to be a very different company, therefore; indeed, the burden of short-term debt which will still remain may leave it too highly geared to avoid some sort of debt reconstruction and that may even involve a reconstruction of the equity capital.

Such things are for Dupont and its bankers to work out and, if necessary, put to shareholders after the BSC deal is finalized. Meanwhile the measure of the crisis is in a possible preference dividend saving £43,750, which leaves equity holders with option money with the shares at 12p looking optimistic.

Politics is about words and persuasion and the projection of ideas. Recent political utterances by government ministers have clearly had a unifying theme, suggesting that, with the blessing of the Prime Minister, the message for the second two years of the Thatcher administration is being substantially modified.

Under every government there tends to be one minister whose role is to announce impending variations in the policy. Despite a series of mild rebukes from the Prime Minister for having taken this role upon himself, Mr John Biffen continues to speak in a voice of equal honesty and greater coherence about the strategy of the present government than any other of its leading members.

Every government, likewise, has a moment at about the middle of its first elected term when the promises and hopes of opposition come face to face with the realities of life in office. No recent government, however, has found this contrast and conflict so sharp, for no recent government has come to power with such a radical view of the scope and speed with which policy would have to be changed.

Characteristically, it was Mr Biffen again who lifted the lid in the most explicit way on these issues. In his Sunday interview with Mr Brian Walden on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World*.

Ever since Mrs Thatcher came to power the central theme of her economic and industrial policy has been the need to force through change and adjustment to the realities of a changing world at a faster pace than would result from any natural adjustment process. The core, indeed, of the battle between the "hards" and the "softs" in this government has been that the former have argued that the pace of change must be relentlessly forced, despite the inevitable resistance of those who have argued that the only worthwhile and lasting changes are those that are achieved by persuasion and agreement.

The phrase in Mr Biffen's interview that is likely to last longest in the public memory was his statement that: "I didn't come into politics to be a Kamikaze pilot." The more interesting indication that the government of which he has for so long been a key member, is shifting its ground was, however, contained in a question about "how wise it is to have a tough and sharp rhetoric when in fact your policies are much more gradualist than that would suggest."

If then the Government is in the process of switching its public image from being a hardline bunch of pretty doctrinaire monetarist theologians to that of being gradualist, sensible and practical Tories of a traditional sort (the

pejorative terms are taken more or less in context from Mr Biffen's interview) it has to face a substantial presentational problem.

The centre of this presentational problem is the need to persuade first Whitehall and informed opinion and then a wider public that the Government has a policy which holds out a reasonable chance of improving rather than worsening the situation in the medium term. Unfortunately, given the election timetable, the medium term is only between now and 1984 at the latest.

So far as the economy is concerned, the impression given by the majority of those at the Treasury is that they are cast into Eeyore-like gloom, as the worst of the predictions they make for privately about the likely effects of government policy when Mrs Thatcher came to power seem to have been excessively optimistic. So far as industry is concerned, the impression given by those at the Department of Industry is that despair rather than gloom is the order of the day.

In particular, a pragmatic Tory programme for industry and the economy

in the next two to three years might include some of the following elements. First, a healthy private sector cannot survive much longer in a sharply contracting economy, whatever the eventual benefits that may be credited to the violent purge of the past two years.

Secondly, while market forces and market mechanisms provide the most sensible and efficient mechanism for allocating resources in much the largest part of the economy, there are critical areas where they provide no answer at all. In these other areas the Government, like those in all other industrial countries, must have a positive and interventionist industrial policy.

And, thirdly, the Government must recognize that there are no quick and easy answers to problems that are deeply ingrained—over years, decades and even centuries. It was a naïveté born of relative inexperience that led some of those closest to the Prime Minister to think that once personal incomes tax rates were cut, a medium-term strategy announced, dividend controls and foreign exchange controls abolished a new world would suddenly dawn within 18 months to two years. Dreams are engaging, but dreams end. For the long haul, as Mr Biffen seemed to be indicating, truth and honest doubt are more helpful.

## Anthony Hilton on an electronic share dealing system which replaces the trading floor America's growing computerized stock market

New York

In just ten years America's over-the-counter or "march-making" market Nasdaq (the acronym stands for National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations) has grown from virtually nothing to become the third largest stock market of any kind in the world. It is beaten in terms of the daily volume of traded shares only by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and Tokyo.

By the end of 1979 it accounted for more than a quarter of the shares bought and sold in America. Fourteen months later this figure is well over a third. More to the point, in the last six years the value of shares measured by the Nasdaq index has quadrupled.

In both the volume and the value of equities traded Nasdaq, whose administrative base is in Washington, exceeds the London stock market and dwarfs such long established institutions as the Paris Bourse or even the combined Canadian stock markets.

Its ebullient president Mr Gordon Macklin, the man who has run the system since its inception, says that it has achieved this without having what traditionally is thought of as the essential feature of a stock, or any other, market—namely a trading floor where

buyers and sellers meet to do business.

The floor has been replaced by telephone and the computer terminal.

Mr Macklin says his over-the-counter or OTC market, as it is commonly known, trades four times as many shares a day by volume and twice as much by value as does the much better known and generally recognized number two, the American Stock Exchange (Amex). If the value of all the domestic companies quoted on the OTC, it added up, he says, twisting the knife, then it comes to \$122,000m (£54,000m), which is \$50,000 more than the capitalization of the Amex listings.

Having displaced the Amex, Mr Macklin is not altogether joking when he says he is now gunning for the New York Stock Exchange.

The OTC's business has been growing at 37 per cent a year for the past five years, almost twice as fast as that of the New York Stock Exchange and as a result the target is almost within range.

Volume so far this year is running at 70 per cent of that of the New York Stock Exchange and celebrating Nasdaq's tenth birthday in New York last week, Mr L. C. Jack Fleuren, its chairman, has mischievously predicted that on present trends Nasdaq will overtake the NYSE "sometime in the third week of January, 1984".

However, if the underlying dollar value of shares traded is examined, it is still "no contest" with the typical OTC bargain having barely half the weight of an NYSE deal. But even with that caveat, it is a notable performance.

The due to what effectively amounts to a revolution in the way shares are traded is computerization. If it were not for modern communications and computers the growth could not have happened.

As it stands it is a telling monument to the power of modern communications. There are some 400 securities firms plugged into a giant central computer, which is the 1980's equivalent of the trading floor. Through this they deal in 2,800 domestic and foreign stocks.

Overseas companies include highly respected ones like De Beers, Nippon Electric, and British Petroleum, and others like Parke-Bernet. Some of the better known American ones are high technology companies like Intel and Apple Computer, side by side with the more traditional Fluorocarbon, or Adolph Coors, the brewer. Countering the image of the OTC as the last refuge of the tiny and not always well run company, Mr Macklin says that Nasdaq handles nearly 200 stocks with assets of more than \$1,000m and a further 500 with assets of over \$100m.

Each of the 400 dealers can make a market in one or more stocks. The industry giant Merrill Lynch is market maker for more than 500. On average each stock has eight widely separated brokers all making a price in it, a system which its supporters claim makes for keener pricing, narrower spreads and greater flexibility than that of the New York Stock Exchange where each stock has only one specialist.

None of this would be possible without Nasdaq's huge network, a series of regional sub-computers which tie the firms together. All dealers have a terminal into which they constantly feed in the bid and offered prices of the stocks in which they are market makers.

The computerized information is available to all buyers and all a buyer has to do is press a button on his terminal, corresponding to a specific share, for all the different quotes to be immediately displayed. He then selects the price which he wishes to pay, notes who is offering it and contacts that market maker by telephone to do the deal.

Soon, however, even this manual stage will be abolished. Nasdaq has now begun to phase in what it calls a "computer assisted execution system". This means that the buyer or seller simply punches in his terminal the trade he wishes to do and the computer matches

it with the best price available wherever in the country it may be.

Once this system is fully in place by the end of the year, Nasdaq could claim to be the world's first fully automated totally electronic securities market.

Perhaps the most telling confirmation that the OTC has become respectable is that at least 500 of the companies it lists would be eligible for a quotation on the New York Stock Exchange, but have opted instead to stay with Nasdaq. In theory companies could be quoted on both Nasdaq and the conventional exchanges but there are no practical benefits to be gained from this.

Each company has its own reasons for leaving the NYSE, but Mr J. M. "Mac" Hill, chief executive of a Texas-based company Rangair perhaps speaks for a wide audience when he says "there are two kinds of stocks—those that are bought and those that are sold". In the first category he puts the blue chips like Exxon and General Motors, companies which would enjoy a good market in any system.

But he is not in that class. His company is not a household word and is unlikely ever to become one. So it benefits from the active interest of market-making professionals who follow the stock and bring in their clients.

## Tucking into the pot snack market

Most Chinese cookery books would not include the following recipe for chow mein: antioxidants, preservative, yeast extract, inosine monophosphate, fruit acids, spices, colour, emulsifier, flavouring, garlic, sugar, soy sauce, monosodium glutamate, hydrolysed vegetable protein, soy flour, mushroom, salt, mixed peppers, starch, green beans, edible fat, carrot, onion and noodles.

But then most versions of chow mein are not made in Grimsby and sold as the powdered layer at the bottom of a plastic yoghurt-style container, ready to be reconstituted with boiling water into something edible in four minutes.

This particular dish is called Quick Lunch. Its ingredients include a version called simply Bolognese; and its rivals include sweet and sour chicken and even a prawn provençale.

The list of ingredients for all of them seem more at home in the chemistry laboratory than the kitchen. But together they add up to one of the fastest-growing sectors of the grocery trade, worth up to £45m in retail sales this year, and a new product area which is being eyed anxiously by nearly every

big food group yet to enter it.

The know-how behind the instant snack market is Japanese and when it first arrived in Britain so was the product. KP, part of United Biscuits, first launched a Japanese import which it called Oodles in 1976, withdrawing it a year later when it found that the oriental flavour did not suit British tastes.

Now KP (with a new product), Golden Wonder, part of the

Imperial Group, Unilever's Bachelors and Knorr are all competing with each other in this market. They are seeking to strengthen their hold in the belief that Princes-Buitoni, Heinz, Mars, and Cadbury are on the verge of launching their own entries into the market.

KP and Golden Wonder have just launched new brands nationally, based on rice instead of noodles and, along with

Bachelors, have increased advertising spending. According to Golden Wonder, 90 million pots of instant hot snacks were sold during 1980, the equivalent of 250,000 every shopping day of the year.

Mr Bob Davis, KP's product manager, for the range said: "The instantizing of food is something which has been around for a long while but the idea of putting it into a pot is new. There are a few secret bits and pieces but by and large the product is no more complicated than instant mashed potato."

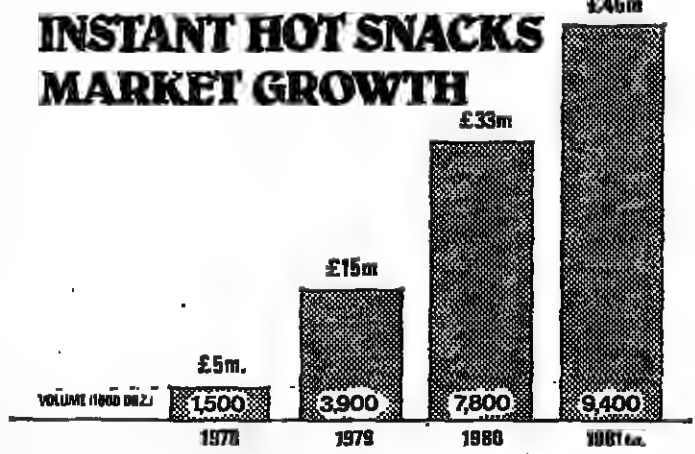
Retailing at between 35p and 44p, the snacks which, like instant mashed potato, have come in for a fair amount of caustic comment from food writers and commentators might have been expected to sell as some sort of replacement for the office sandwich. In fact, most are eaten at home, some 75 per cent according to KP, or 66 per cent, according to Golden Wonder.

The manufacturers themselves remain slightly dismayed by the way the sector has taken off. "To go from a market worth nothing at the beginning of 1976 to taking £40m to £50m this year is quite a feat," said KP's Mr Davis.

The market is dominated at present by Golden Wonder, with 52 per cent of sales; KP and Bachelors argue over which is in second place and Knorr comes fourth with about 10 per cent. The three leaders are committed to spending a total of £3m in new campaigns to improve sales.

But who, one is tempted to ask, actually eats the snacks? Golden Wonder's research suggests that 50 per cent of sales are eaten at lunch-time and 40 per cent in the early evening, which leads the manufacturers to believe that their prime targets are housewives and, perhaps, children.

David Hewson



## Business Diary: Jayne and the CBI Priorities • In Camra?

er Jayne, the barrister who Deputy director-general of National Federation of Ding Trades Employers, has ped into one of the hottest he Confederation of British industry's hot seats.

He takes over from "Pat" as chairman of the Industrial Relations and Conditions committee in time for the crossfire between employer organizations the government review of union immunities.

owry left after eight years he chair when he moved on a the personnel and external affairs directorship of to become chairman of the Arbitration Service.

James Prior, Secretary of a for Employment, pleaded a "vigorous and wide-ranging debate" on trade union activities when he published Green Paper on the subject month.

It will be Jayne's unenviable to relay to Mr Prior the varied views of the 60 or 70 organizations represented on a committee.

The committee is also a um for views on wage negotiations where, in the absence of formal wage controls, views for widely.

William Marney (right) has a close business connection with the topic that is the staple of conversation in Britain—the weather.

Marney and his firm, Garner and Marney of Islington, are makers and restorers of barometers. The one in his hand is a walnut case stick barometer made in 1705 in the Old Bailey by John Patrick.

This and other pieces are part of an exhibition of antique and reproduction barometers being staged by Marney in London.

The exhibition, the biggest collection to be seen in the country and including grand-father, grandmother and grand-daughter clocks, is open on weekdays until March 6 at the Pennybank Gallery of the Clerkenwell Green Association for Craftsman.



Photograph: John Marney

One of the few industries to be experiencing a boom in West Yorkshire in these difficult times concerns people who know, or claim to know, the danger facing 13 charges of murder and seven of attempted murder in Yorkshire and Manchester.

His home town of Bingley has witnessed unprecedented activity by reporters from all over the world. Hotels in the area, most notably the Norfolk Gardens in Bradford, speak of good business as squads of news people use it as their base camp while conducting their inquiries.

The catering trade and local hostellers are not the only people to have profited from the attention of Fleet Street. While some people in Bingley have been disgusted by the attentions of the media, others have apparently been quick to seize the chance of earning a little extra pocket money by impersonating "exclusive" information.

Indeed, it seems that many reporters are surprised to find that the first question they are asked is "How much?" or

"What is it worth for me to talk?" The local starting rate is £10, but once an interview has begun, the price has been known to increase as people, who confess to being "short", see an easy way of making quick money.

Each extra piece of information given is apparently followed by "That will cost you more as it is just between you and me". But, on deeper questioning, many of those claiming to have good information confess that everything they know about the accused has been told to them by other reporters.

China has a credit card of its own. The Bank of China and 12 sister banks have joined the bank credit card system with the Nanyang Commercial Bank.

Called The Federal Card because it is to be issued by the federation of the BOC group, it will be linked with the Bank of China's accounting system and all foreign exchange booths in China.

With Federal, card holders will be able to get cash advances, train stations, hotels and retail stores in China give foreign exchange certificates on demand and customers can pay in Hongkong dollars or by cheque.



This week, in which the Campaign for Real Ale publishes its tenth annual Good Beer Guide (Camra, £3.50), finds the movement in curious shape. Founded to stop the brewers' plasticizing beer, some Camra members are now more of the schismatic than the crusading persuasion. A motion is expected at next month's annual meeting for the removal of "CAMRA" from the title of an associate body which buys and operates pubs. CAMRA (Real Ale) investments. The latter, Camra theologians claim, is bringing in fruit machines and fancy prices in its seven pubs, just like any other brewer. The company has in fact backed one new brewer, Simon's Tower Bridge, and has long-term brewing objectives. The one thing Camra does not mind is that CAMRA (Real Ale) investments must sell lager and Guinness in kegs.

Ross Davies

## CRESCENT JAPAN INVESTMENT TRUST LTD

Summary of the report for the year ended 31 December 1980

- Net asset value per share at 31 December 1980 was 239.2p compared with 169.6p a year ago.
- As foreshadowed last year, earnings per ordinary share show a reduction from 3.79p to 0.96p and the directors are recommending a dividend of 0.95p compared with 2.5p last year.
- Shareholders' funds were 99 per cent invested in Japan at 31 December 1980 compared with 87 per cent last year.
- Investment policy has favoured high quality technology stocks, which have performed very well.
- The economic outlook in Japan is better than in other advanced economies.
- The managers' immediate intention is to remain fully invested in Japanese equities and convertible stocks.

An investment trust managed by EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS LTD  
4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB  
Tel: 031 226 4931



# William Press stake in French Kier revealed

## Barker & Dobson rights issue for £1.45m

trading below their 20p par value at 16p, a new class of "A" shares at 1p is being created. These "A" shares at 1p will be offered on a pro rata

Mr Ronald Aicken, chairman, confirmed that the "deeply discounted" price was being offered because the shares were trading below market value.

He explained that as this usually precludes a conventional rights issue, the group felt it right to offer shares at "maximum advantage".

The issue will be followed by a reduction of capital to cut the nominal value of shares.

ing shares from 20 to 10. Once the capital reduction is effective, and the period of renunciation of the allotment letters of the "A" shares has expired, the "A" shares will convert into 10 shares to give one uniform class of shares.

Despite losing \$158,000 and passing the interim dividend in the first half of the year to October, the group is expecting a return to profits in the full year to March. After exchange losses, extraordinary items, and business closures, profits of £240,000 are looked for. However a final dividend is still in

## Yorkshire Fine hint of return to dividends

### Briefly

## Confusion

## Trust Securities returns

In 1976 the group's bankers brought in a "salvage crew"

## Baring's profit up for year

**Mountleigh**  
down 7 pc  
midway

Pretax profits fell from £235,000 to £217,000 while turnover slipped from £3.45m to £2.1m in the six months to October 31. The property division contributed £241,000, but

## United Carriers acquisition

Mr Ernest Hall, chairman.

**United Carriers** is buying the goodwill and assets of Dor-to-Dor carriers (Brighton) a parcels carrying business which is concentrated in Southern England with its main depot at Lewes. United is paying £625,000 for goodwill, vehicles, plant and equipment and the freehold of the depot at Lewes.

policy of retaining, wherever appropriate, completed developments for the investment portfolio has led to income from this source already being twice that of the whole of 1979-80," he said.

## Business appointments

## Two join board of BP Chemicals

## Bank Base Rates

ARN Bank .....	14%
Barclays .....	14%
BCCI .....	14%
Consolidated Crd .....	14%
C. Hoare & Co. ....	14%
Lloyds Bank .....	14%
Midland Bank .....	14%
Nat Westminster .....	14%
Rossminster .....	14%
TSB .....	14%
Williams and Glyn's .....	14%

\* low deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 14%  
 £50,000 12%  
 £50,000 11%  
 own

## Earnings decline at Lufthansa

Barclays .....	14%
BCCI .....	14%
Consolidated Crdts .....	14%
C. Hoare & Co .....	14%
Lloyds Bank .....	14%
Midland Bank .....	14%
Nat Westminster .....	14%
Rossminster .....	14%
TSB .....	14%
Williams and Glyn's .....	14%

\* 10 day deposit on sums of  
 £10,000 and under 11%, up  
 to £50,000 12%, over  
 £50,000 13%.

## International

C. Moore & Co. ....	14%
Lloyds Bank ....	14%
Midland Bank ....	14%
Nat Westminster ..	14%
Rossminster .....	14%
TSB .....	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12½%, over £50,000 13½%.

## GM hopeful over rebates

	Price	Chgs	Discs	Yld	P E
64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8	
42	-1	1.4	3.3	17.3	
189	-1	9.7	5.1	7.1	
95	—	5.5	5.8	4.7	
				3.7	

## Lloyds to fund complex

107	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
120	+1	7.9	6.6	9.8
330	—	31.3	9.5	—
54	—	5.3	9.8	3.9
217	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
111	—	—	—	—
71	—	15.0	12.1	—
41	—	3.0	7.3	6.3
103	—	5.7	5.5	5.7
261	—	12.1	4.6	4.3

## Wells Fargo

ale & Co. Limited  
R 3EB Telephone 01-621 1212

Mr Ronald E. Eadie, execu

	Price	Ch'ge	(From Discip)	Yld %	P/E
64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8	
42	-1	1.4	3.3	17.3	
189	-1	9.7	5.1	7.1	
95	—	5.5	5.8	4.7	
106	—	6.4	6.0	3.3	
52	—	11.0	21.2	2.4	

## Sumitomo Bank

120	+1	7.9	6.6	9.8
330	—	31.3	9.5	—
54	—	5.3	9.8	3.9
217	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
111	—	—	—	—
71	—	15.0	12.1	—
41	—	3.0	7.3	6.3
103	—	5.7	5.5	5.7
261	—	12.1	4.6	4.3

**The  
Great Northern  
Investment Trust  
Limited**

### Results for Year ended 30th November 1980

- Net revenue rose by 11% to £34m. In 1979 revenue included special non-recurring dividends of £0.3m.
  - Ordinary dividends paid and proposed amount to 8.6p (1979: 5.4p and a special dividend of 0.6p) per stock unit.
  - The valuation of net assets at 30th November 1980 was £88.2m of which £35.7m was attributable to ordinary stockholders, equivalent to 177p per ordinary stock unit.
  - UK assets represented 77% of the total, with North America and Australia the principal areas in which overseas investments were held. Oil and oil services—18%, insurance—8%, and electrical and electronics—8%, were the main investment sectors.
- Copies of the accounts are available from The Great Northern Investment Trust Limited, 90 Mitchell Street, Glasgow G1 3NQ.**

1960 High	1961 Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Gross Discs	Yld	P E
75	39	Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8
44	21	Armitage & Rhodes	42	-1	1.4	3.2	17.3
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	-1	9.7	3.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	95	—	5.5	3.8	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	—	6.4	6.0	3.3
110	51	Frederick Parker	52	—	11.0	21.2	2.4
110	74	George Blair	75	-1	3.1	2.1	—
110	59	James Group	107	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	John Burrough	120	+1	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	—	31.3	9.5	—
55	50	Scruttons "A"	54	—	5.3	9.8	3.9
224	215	Torday Limited	217	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinkl Oak	11½	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinkl 15% C.L.S	71	—	15.0	12.1	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	41	—	3.0	7.3	6.3
103	81	Walter Alexander	102	—	5.7	5.5	7.7
263	181	W. S. Yeates	261	—	12.1	4.6	4.3



MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

City of London, 23 Feb. — The London market for commodities was mostly quiet on Tuesday, with a few scattered transactions in the oil and metal markets. The oil market saw a slight rise in prices for Brent and WTI, while the metal market was mostly flat. The grain market was also quiet, with a few transactions in wheat and barley. The sugar market saw a slight rise in prices for raw sugar, while the cotton market was mostly flat. The overall market was characterized by a lack of significant movement, with prices remaining relatively stable throughout the day.

Discount market

For much of yesterday's session, with some appearing only sporadically, rates were hovering about within a band of 13 1/2 to 14 per cent. Closing business was taken up by a few more transactions, with rates between 13 and 14 per cent, with some money being put on the market. The market was characterized by a lack of significant movement, with rates remaining relatively stable throughout the day.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Market rates (day's trading)	February 23	February 24
New York	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
London	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Frankfurt	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Paris	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Brussels	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Amsterdam	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Geneva	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Zurich	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Basel	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Vienna	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 2.1 to 100.4.

Indices

Bank of England	February 23	February 24
Sterling	100.4	100.4
US dollar	90.5	90.5
Japanese yen	160.0	160.0
Swiss franc	1.50	1.50
West German mark	1.40	1.40
French franc	1.20	1.20
Italian lire	1.00	1.00
Spanish peseta	0.10	0.10
Portuguese escudo	0.02	0.02
Dutch guilder	0.30	0.30
Belgian franc	0.05	0.05
Danish krone	0.10	0.10
Swedish krona	0.05	0.05
Norwegian krone	0.05	0.05
Yen	160.0	160.0

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

EMS Currency Rates

ECU currency	change	difference
Belgian franc	0.0000	0.0000
Danish krone	0.0000	0.0000
French franc	0.0000	0.0000
German mark	0.0000	0.0000
Italian lire	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands guilder	0.0000	0.0000
Portuguese escudo	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish peseta	0.0000	0.0000
Swedish krona	0.0000	0.0000
Swiss franc	0.0000	0.0000
Yen	0.0000	0.0000

Changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.

LME metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week fell in tonnes except silver, which is in proxy accounts. Copper rose 1,275 to 121,600; Tin rose 565 to 7,025; Lead fell 1,850 to 64,975; Zinc rose 175 to 22,400; Nickel rose 25 to 47,550; Silver rose 66 to 4,020; Silver fell 850,000 to 25,71m.

Foreign exchange report

The pound dipped sharply yesterday, upped initially by a widening of the forward market, but then fell back to its previous level. The currency was on a downward trend throughout the day, with a low of 100.4 reached. The market was characterized by a lack of significant movement, with rates remaining relatively stable throughout the day.

Other Markets

Market rates (day's trading)	February 23	February 24
New York	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
London	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Frankfurt	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Paris	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Brussels	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Amsterdam	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Geneva	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Zurich	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Basel	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435
Vienna	2.2430-2.2435	2.2430-2.2435

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 2.1 to 100.4.

Dollar Spot

Bank of England	February 23	February 24
Sterling	100.4	100.4
US dollar	90.5	90.5
Japanese yen	160.0	160.0
Swiss franc	1.50	1.50
West German mark	1.40	1.40
French franc	1.20	1.20
Italian lire	1.00	1.00
Spanish peseta	0.10	0.10
Portuguese escudo	0.02	0.02
Dutch guilder	0.30	0.30
Belgian franc	0.05	0.05
Danish krone	0.10	0.10
Swedish krona	0.05	0.05
Norwegian krone	0.05	0.05
Yen	160.0	160.0

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

Money Market

Bank of England	February 23	February 24
Sterling	100.4	100.4
US dollar	90.5	90.5
Japanese yen	160.0	160.0
Swiss franc	1.50	1.50
West German mark	1.40	1.40
French franc	1.20	1.20
Italian lire	1.00	1.00
Spanish peseta	0.10	0.10
Portuguese escudo	0.02	0.02
Dutch guilder	0.30	0.30
Belgian franc	0.05	0.05
Danish krone	0.10	0.10
Swedish krona	0.05	0.05
Norwegian krone	0.05	0.05
Yen	160.0	160.0

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

Euro-Deposits

Gold rose 1,275 to 121,600; Tin rose 565 to 7,025; Lead fell 1,850 to 64,975; Zinc rose 175 to 22,400; Nickel rose 25 to 47,550; Silver rose 66 to 4,020; Silver fell 850,000 to 25,71m.

Wall Street

New York, Feb. 23. — Declining interest rates and a more hopeful attitude about the chances for success in Congress of President Reagan's fiscal programme pushed stock prices higher but trading continued at its recent moderate pace. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.44 points to 1,000.00, while the S&P 500 rose 0.14 points to 100.00. The market was characterized by a lack of significant movement, with prices remaining relatively stable throughout the day.

US commodities

Commodity	Price
Wheat	1.20
Barley	1.10
Oats	1.00
Rye	0.90
Corn	0.80
Soybeans	0.70
Beans	0.60
Peas	0.50
Lentils	0.40
Flour	0.30
Sugar	0.20
Coffee	0.10
Tea	0.05
Cocoa	0.02
Spices	0.01

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

Canadian Prices

Commodity	Price
Wheat	1.20
Barley	1.10
Oats	1.00
Rye	0.90
Corn	0.80
Soybeans	0.70
Beans	0.60
Peas	0.50
Lentils	0.40
Flour	0.30
Sugar	0.20
Coffee	0.10
Tea	0.05
Cocoa	0.02
Spices	0.01

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

Foreign exchange

Commodity	Price
Wheat	1.20
Barley	1.10
Oats	1.00
Rye	0.90
Corn	0.80
Soybeans	0.70
Beans	0.60
Peas	0.50
Lentils	0.40
Flour	0.30
Sugar	0.20
Coffee	0.10
Tea	0.05
Cocoa	0.02
Spices	0.01

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Unit Name	Price	Unit Name	Price	Unit Name	Price	Unit Name	Price	Unit Name	Price
1. ABC Unit Trust	1.20	11. XYZ Unit Trust	1.10	21. PQR Unit Trust	1.00	31. STU Unit Trust	0.90	41. VWX Unit Trust	0.80
2. DEF Unit Trust	1.10	12. GHI Unit Trust	1.00	22. RST Unit Trust	0.90	32. UVW Unit Trust	0.80	42. YZA Unit Trust	0.70
3. BCD Unit Trust	1.00	13. JKL Unit Trust	0.90	23. TUV Unit Trust	0.80	33. XYZ Unit Trust	0.70	43. ABC Unit Trust	0.60
4. EFG Unit Trust	0.90	14. MNO Unit Trust	0.80	24. WXY Unit Trust	0.70	34. DEF Unit Trust	0.60	44. GHI Unit Trust	0.50
5. HIJ Unit Trust	0.80	15. PQR Unit Trust	0.70	25. STU Unit Trust	0.60	35. VWX Unit Trust	0.50	45. YZA Unit Trust	0.40
6. KLM Unit Trust	0.70	16. UVW Unit Trust	0.60	26. XYZ Unit Trust	0.50	36. ABC Unit Trust	0.40	46. DEF Unit Trust	0.30
7. NOP Unit Trust	0.60	17. RST Unit Trust	0.50	27. UVW Unit Trust	0.40	37. GHI Unit Trust	0.30	47. JKL Unit Trust	0.20
8. QRS Unit Trust	0.50	18. TUV Unit Trust	0.40	28. WXY Unit Trust	0.30	38. XYZ Unit Trust	0.20	48. ABC Unit Trust	0.10
9. TUV Unit Trust	0.40	19. XYZ Unit Trust	0.30	29. ABC Unit Trust	0.20	39. DEF Unit Trust	0.10	49. GHI Unit Trust	0.05
10. WXY Unit Trust	0.30	20. ABC Unit Trust	0.20	30. DEF Unit Trust	0.10	40. GHI Unit Trust	0.05	50. JKL Unit Trust	0.01











